

BRUSH WITH HISTORY

A black and white portrait of a man, Deputy E.R. Walthers, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, dark tie, and a fedora hat. He is also wearing thick-rimmed glasses and has a serious expression. The background is a plain, light color.

DID HE SOLVE
THE JIM CASE?

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DEPUTY E.R. WALTHERS

By Eric R. Tagg (c) 1998

BRUSH WITH HISTORY

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DEPUTY
E. R. WALTHERS**

*To Robert,
From Texas, where our
innocence was lost*

Eric Tagg
**BY
ERIC TAGG**

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BRUSH WITH HISTORY

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DEPUTY E.R. WALTHERS

INTRODUCTION

This is the true story of Deputy Sheriff E.R. "Buddy" Walthers of Dallas County, a man who came closer than any other investigator to solving the most enigmatic murder of our time, the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Whether he knew it or not at the time, his instincts (or sheer Providence) led him to the key pieces of evidence in the crime within minutes after the shooting. As we consider Walthers' movements that fateful day, we will see with the 20-20 vision of retrospect that he stumbled into every major facet of the case and almost single-handedly performed the only good police work done that day, from the gathering of evidence and witnesses to the uncovering of the conspirators and their hideout.

Let's face it, November 22, 1963, was not a date to be remembered for great law enforcement or security techniques. That day of infamy is more noted for its atrocious police work. We can start with the protection of the President: Dallas Police Chief Curry's activities that day verged on criminality as he left the scene of the crime and followed LBJ around Dallas after losing his charge, JFK. Dealey Plaza was not secured after the

shots, witnesses were not deposed or named, the Texas School Book Depository was not secured for 25 minutes, the adjacent railroad yard was not really searched or sealed, traffic was allowed to drive over valuable pieces of evidence, and the chain of evidence was broken on many artifacts that were gathered, throwing them into doubt.

All suspects were released immediately except one, whose safety was disregarded numerous times as he was bandied about in front of the press and an angry public, thereby ruining his chances for any semblance of a fair trial. It took 42 minutes before the sixth floor of the TSBD was searched, to which numerous witnesses had pointed immediately after the shots. The media was allowed to run rampant through police headquarters, ridiculous lineups of the suspect were held amid teenagers and an overweight Hispanic man, even after witnesses had seen Oswald on television referred to as the assassin. Texas law was not enforced in relation to the requirement of an autopsy being performed at Parkland Hospital and a cause of death issued, the body being allowed to be whisked away under Chief Curry's nose. Despite telephone death threats, Oswald was paraded in front of the public as the solution to both Dallas murders that day.

All the evidence gathered by the police was handed over to the FBI too quickly, before even a cursory examination of it could begin. Only one conclusion was allowed to be reached: that a lone, deranged assassin robbed our country of its precious President; a convenient premise, considering that many members of the Dallas Police were Ku Klux Klan or

John Birchers and had no great desire to fix the blame anywhere but on a Castro-loving Commie, which would necessitate an invasion of Cuba, thereby killing two 'pinko' birds with one stone.

The late Deputy Hiram Ingram once stated his knowledge of a police conspiracy in the assassination and its aftermath, the killing of Oswald by Ruby, who knew most of the officers in Dallas. Ingram has gone the way of most brave citizens that dared say anything other than the politically correct version of events, 75 of whom 'passed away' within the first few years after the crime, silencing their dissent. Researcher Penn Jones has followed the demise of many of these witnesses, chronicling their often bizarre death circumstances. See Appendix.

Another deputy, Harry Weatherford, was allowed on top of the County Records Bldg. overlooking Dealey Plaza with a rifle, where later a spent 30.06 shell was found. Many citizens were allowed on top of the overpass against orders, and there were no instructions regarding the 20,000 open windows along the motorcade route. Police motorcycles were kept behind the limousine, rendering them ineffectual in shielding the car's occupants. The police didn't seal the airports, train and bus stations, or major highways and other means of exit around Dallas, making it appear as if the whole event had a pre-conceived script with no thought for alternative possibilities.

Names were taken of the witnesses to Oswald's arrest in the Texas Theater, but this list was somehow misplaced and cannot be located. The

same applies to the list of witnesses to Jack Ruby's murder of Oswald in the police station basement two days later. The many hours of the interrogation of Oswald were not recorded, and only recently have we discovered that Captain Will Fritz did make a few sloppy notes of the questioning. No APB was issued for the chief suspect and evidence was 'showed-off' to the press jeopardizing any chance of finding an impartial jury for the ill-fated suspect's trial. Photographic evidence was confiscated and never returned to its owners, or not returned in its original form. The Dallas Police Department became an instant joke around the world. I overheard my father tell someone at the time, "What do you mean the police bungled the case --- didn't you see how fast they caught Ruby?"

As we retrace Buddy Walther's steps though the 22nd of November, we will see his uncanny ability to be at the right place at the right time through every facet of the case that day, and I will attempt to show how he destroyed the Single-Bullet Theory by his discoveries, proving that the shooter, whether Oswald or someone else, had accomplices. Not stopping there, we will investigate the tip that led Walther to the doorstep of the assassination team itself, and even identify some of them. Then we will explore Walther's relationship with the incarcerated Ruby and find out what happened to some secret papers and mail in Ruby's possession at the time of his death, giving rise to some amazing conclusions about who really controlled Ruby. Finally, we will learn of the circumstances surrounding Walther's own tragic death and come to conclusions about whether or not his murder was somehow connected to the Kennedy case.

CHAPTER ONE

A DAY IN THE DEATH

November 22, 1963 --

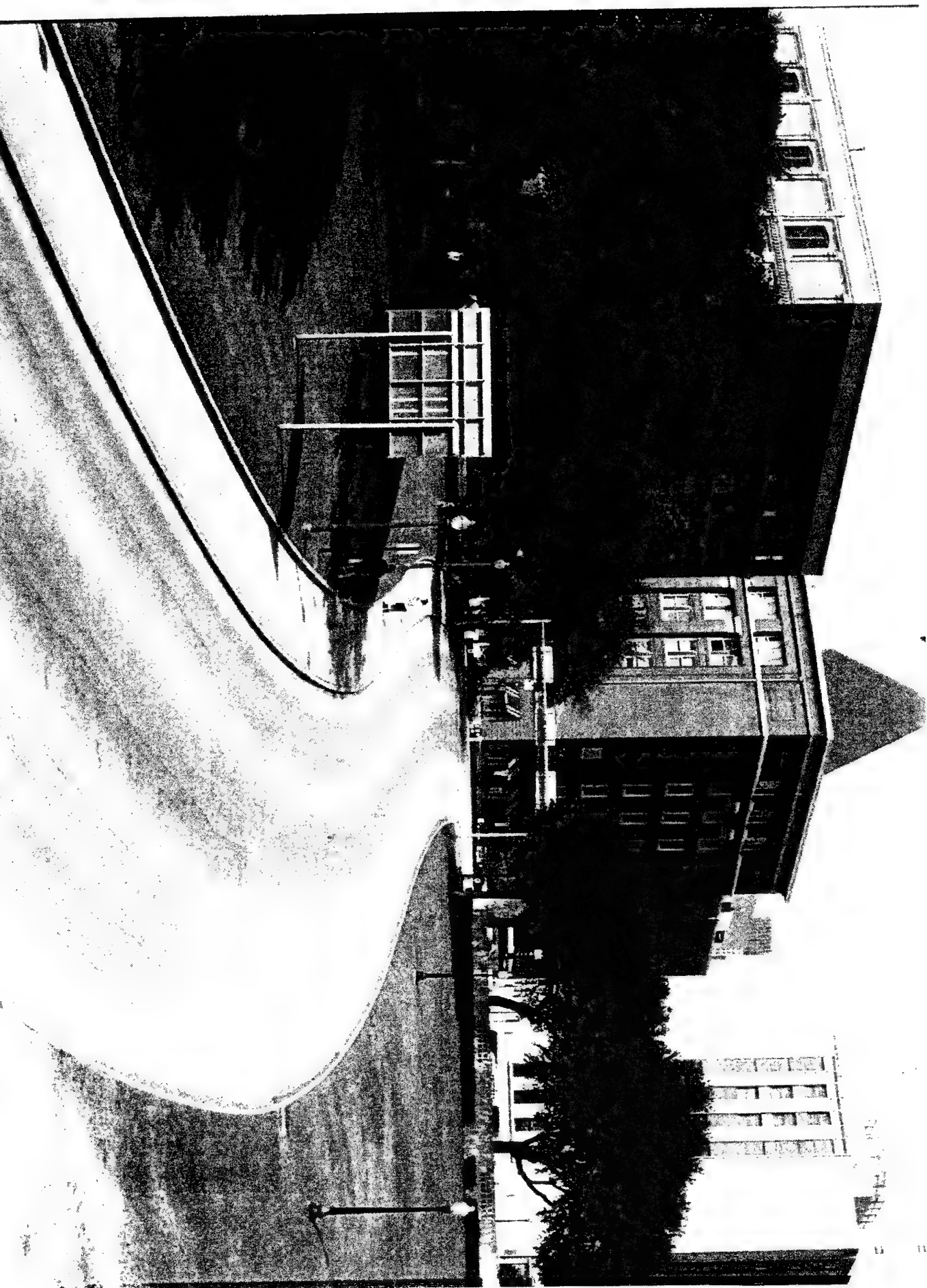
The day of John Kennedy's execution didn't even start out like other days. There was an excitement, a kind of stir in the air; Dallas was rolling out the carpet for a Presidential visitation. The Kennedys were almost royalty, and their coming to town had the place abuzz. Some kids were staying home from school with their parents' blessing to go see JFK, the young vibrant prince of blue blood with the classy princess Jackie. It would be a spectacle all would remember the rest of their days -- of course, not everyone in Dallas greeted the regal couple with the same enthusiastic admiration. A large segment of the city's population was extremely conservative politically, and couldn't stand the "bleedin' heart liberal, Commie-lovin'" approach that JFK took, not to mention his stand on Civil Rights and the waves that was causing. Still others resented his Catholic heritage, his Eastern Establishment nepotistic family "with all their high-falutin' built-in opportunity." Families such as the H. L. Hunts, the Clint Murchisons, and right-wing personalities like General Edwin Walker were not going to just lay back and let this Yankee invasion take place without a few surprises. The Hunts helped place the full-page Wanted For Treason ad in the paper; the Murchisons entertained the likes of J. Edgar Hoover and Richard Nixon (!) the night before the killing; General Walker didn't take it lying down either -- he had been working on inflaming the emotions of the anti-Castro Cubans that lived in Dallas

against Kennedy for months, and although Walker had a speaking engagement in Louisiana that night and wasn't in Dallas, his plans were carried out vicariously through the right wing and the Cubans, as we shall presently learn.

Tension was high, then, as Camelot came to Texas. No one knew what to expect in Dallas, because the previous month U.N. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson had been accosted with a protest signboard and spat upon in Dallas by the Birchers and the Indignation Society for holding the same views as the President. Most of the city prayed for a peaceful reception and parade without too much animosity from the right-wingers. And Dallas almost pulled it off.

12:00

Security was lax that day, for whatever reason: the 112th Military Intelligence of San Antonio under Col. Maximilian Reich and Col. Joel Cabaza, who would normally be in place along the motorcade route, were told to stand down this time. The press covering the trip were placed in the 14th car of the motorcade, thus rendering them of little or no consequence in the reporting of the shooting. Even the Sheriff's Department had no assignment, and were mere spectators in Dealey Plaza like everyone else. There were city officers on traffic and crowd control duty, but the motorcycle escort lagged behind the Presidential limousine instead of riding the flank, which would have afforded more protection. Later, there were rumors that Kennedy himself told his aides to relax on this trip, as he didn't want Dallas to think he didn't trust them after what



DEALEY PLAZA SEEN FROM RAILROAD BRIDGE OVER TRIPLE UNDERPASS

had happened to Adlai Stevenson in October. Both he and Jackie flirted with the crowd numerous times at Love Field and along the parade route, much to the chagrin of the Secret Service detail behind them.

THE MOTORCADE

DEALEY PLAZA

12:30

Deputy Walthers stood on the east side of Houston Street, between the Records Building and the Sheriff's Department as the motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza. He watched the excitement with Mrs. Decker, the Sheriff's wife, and had no orders that afternoon. His testimony to the Warren Commission reveals that as the limo turned the corner to head toward the underpass, he heard three shots ring out, after which he ran across Houston Street and hopped over the wall by the reflecting pool.¹ He ran in the direction from which he thought the shots came, and like everyone else, high-tailed it up the knoll toward the railroad yard west of the Depository Building. There were dozens of witnesses that either saw movement behind the stockade fence after the shots, smelled gunpowder along Elm Street, or saw smoke slowly rise from the trees along the fence. As officers and citizens combed the area of the railroad yard, which was also the Sheriff's parking lot, nothing out of the ordinary was found. Secret Service agents were identified by their badges behind the fence immediately after the shots, and only later did authorities find out that there were no Secret Service agents on duty in Dealey Plaza. They only

rode in the motorcade, and all agents accompanied the President to Parkland Hospital. I believe there was a shooter behind the fence on the knoll, and Buddy Walthers' instincts that took him to the railroad yard were right on the money.

Although nothing suspicious turned up immediately, a concentration of footprints was found near the picket fence, and cigarette butts were seen there as well as mud on a car bumper where someone who had stood there for some time had scraped their shoes. The parking lot was not sealed nor the cars searched for any incriminating items. For that matter, any would-be assassin could have simply hidden himself in a car trunk until the heat was off, or jumped into one of three different storm drain manhole covers that led to a network of underground sewers leading either to the Trinity River nearby, or underneath Dealey Plaza to the County Jail. The sewer theory seems far-fetched at first, but after investigating the possibility myself and crawling down under Elm Street with researcher Penn Jones, I realized what a great hiding place it really is. Looking out of the slot on the north side of the Elm Street curb, I could see the heads of the occupants of all the cars that passed by without them seeing me. The escape route is small and cramped, but passable.²

EXTRA SHOTS

12:40

Deputy Walthers' next move was to ascertain if there was any evidence out in Dealey Plaza of shots fired, or if they had only been blanks.



VIEW FROM ELM STREET SEWER OPENING LOOKING SOUTH

Meeting Officers Haygood and Foster at Elm Street, they decided to check the grassy area between Main and Elm for signs in the turf of bullets fired. The next few moments are shrouded in mystery with conflicting reports of what transpired, but it was a well-recorded event as no fewer than ten photos were snapped of the search for evidence in the grass.

J.W. Foster, a Dallas patrolman stationed on top of the overpass during the motorcade, had seen turf fly up by the manhole cover on the south side of Elm Street.³ After speaking with his superior in front of the Depository, he went to the area where he had seen the disturbance in the grass. Photos show Walthers and Foster discussing a gouge in the manhole cover concrete and corresponding damage to the nearby grass, with help from an unidentified blond-haired man in a suit.⁴ Many researchers believe the man to be an FBI agent named Robert Barrett, with convincing testimony from agents that knew Barrett obtained by Mark Oakes. Police Chief Jesse Curry identifies him as FBI, while researcher Martin Shackleford opines that film and photographs showing agent Barrett at the Texas Theater and the scene of Officer Tippit's shooting make it clear that he was not the same man pictured with Walthers and Foster at the manhole cover in Dealey Plaza. He could, of course, be still another unidentified FBI agent. Shackleford spoke with fellow researchers Dale Myers and Todd Vaughn, who had talked with Barrett and seen other photos of the agent, and they made it clear that Barrett was not the Mystery Man. If it wasn't already settled, the matter was finally laid to rest by the publication of Dale Myers' book With Malice, which includes a profile view of Barrett "playing" Oswald in the January 1964 FBI reconstruction of the

Tippit shooting. It is now abundantly evident that Barrett was not the agent in question in Dealey Plaza with Walthers and Foster at the manhole.

There were two more witnesses to the gouged-out hole under the turf. Wayne and Edna Hartman can be seen on page 52 of the book Cover Up by Gary Shaw standing on the south side of Elm Street, not far from the Mystery Man with the coat over his arm. They reveal in an FBI report dated August 10, 1964, (CD 1518, which she told me was filled with untruths from the FBI) that the projectile entered the ground and traveled just under the turf for about 18 inches, and the path could be followed through the entrance hole three fingers wide. This area was later trampled down by onlookers and couldn't be relocated.

It is interesting to note that the FBI Report on the Hartmans was dictated to and written up by Robert Barrett himself. A follow-up report on September 18, 1964 reveals that Barrett scoured the area on that date with a metal detector, yielding a bottle cap and an aluminum slug; but this begs the question: Why would Agent Barrett still be looking for a bullet almost a year later if he had really found one on the day of the assassination? The whole case can fall like a house of cards if this testimony of a bullet found can be verified by someone else yet to come forward.

Ensuing photos show the man to be placing something in his trousers pocket, while Walthers picks up a large object in the grass himself. Buddy Walthers told his partner Alvin Maddox, Jr., Deputy Roger Craig, his wife



Sequence shows Walthers and Officer Foster gather at the Elm St. manhole cover. As Walthers bends over to pick up an object, they are joined by the Mystery Man who is seen scouring the area for more evidence. The time is 12:39. In the background, a man crossing the street is believed to be Eugene Hale Brading, alias Jim Braden, who was apprehended in the Dal-Tex Bldg. by authorities.

Walthers told friends and family that a bullet was found and turned over to the FBI, but no slug was ever entered as evidence. The Mystery Man has been tentatively identified as FBI agent Robert Barrett, but this needs to be confirmed. From his home in Alabama, Barrett denies that he is the man in question. Unfortunately, Deputy Walthers denied to the Warren Commission that he had found a bullet in the grass, and he was not asked what it was that he did pick up that day. Some have speculated that it was a piece of the President's skull or brain matter.



Sequence shows agent retrieving and pocketing object in grass. No evidence was ever submitted.

Dorothy, Inspector Sawyer, and some reporters that a .45 caliber slug was found at that time, however no projectile or missile was ever turned in as evidence from this area.⁵ After a lecture from Sheriff Bill Decker, Walthers later denied to the Warren Commission that a bullet was found, but by the time he gave his testimony an extra bullet would have destroyed both the Single Bullet Theory and the Lone Gunman Hypothesis, two necessary precepts to prove the government's case against Oswald. I'm sure much pressure was brought to bear on Walthers not to rock the boat, especially after seeing what happened to Deputy Roger Craig and others that gave stories that conflicted with the official version.⁶ The significance of this piece of evidence to the case is staggering, and here we find Walthers again at the center of the action, his instincts leading him to the important facets of the shooting.

On November 24th the Dallas Times Herald reported: " Dallas Police Lt. J.C. Day of the crime lab had estimated the distance from the sixth floor window... to the spot where one of the bullets was recovered at 100 yards." Newsman Richard Dudman also told of the missed shot in the December 21, 1963 issue of the New Republic: "On the day the President was shot I happened to learn of a possible fifth bullet. A group of police officers was examining the area at the side of the street where the President was hit, and a police inspector told me they had just found another bullet in the grass."

Recently released files from the FBI Field Office in Dallas reveal an evidence envelope (89-43-1A-122) that was empty, although the cover

indicated it had contained a 7.65 mm rifle shell that had been found in Dealey Plaza after the shooting. Could this have been the bullet picked out of the grass at the manhole cover? Until discovered and released by the Assassination Records Review Board, no reference was ever made to this envelope or shell. It is possible, however, that the bullet was found days later, even as late as December 2, 1963, as the envelope was dated 12-2-63. File this fact away for future reference: a 7.65 mm shell is the same size as that of a 30.06 rifle shell. We'll come back to this later.

THE THIRD VICTIM IN DEALEY PLAZA

12:42

As Walthers, Foster, and the 'unidentified man' were probing by the manhole cover for spent bullets, a man walked up to them from the Main St. underpass and asked them if they were looking for where a bullet may have struck. The man, James Tague, then told them that he had been standing at the underpass by his car during the motorcade when a shot rang out. He had instinctively looked up at the clock on top of the Depository and saw that it read 12:29. Most accounts of the assassination have it at 12:30, but here is definitive proof that it had at least started earlier. He also reported that the first shot sounded different than the other subsequent shots, more like a firecracker, or a muffled noise, as if it was a dud or shot from another location.

Tague distinctly remembered being hit in the face by something after the second or third shot, but ignored the pain and dove behind the bridge



Walthers retrieves item at manhole cover south of Elm St. at 12:40



Walthers with object in hand at sewer cover at 12:40

abutment until the shooting had stopped. On telling Walthers of the sting on his face, Tague was informed by the Deputy that he had blood on his cheek.⁷ The existing photographs of Tague at the scene show him with a sizeable scratch on his left cheek, but this was from a week earlier. Actually, the wound from the shooting was on his right cheek and was a very minor scratch that drew only a few drops of blood. But these drops were evidence that would end up blowing the Single Bullet and Lone Assassin theories away, thanks to Walthers' actions. He immediately followed Tague back to where he had been standing at Main St. by the underpass when he was grazed in the face, and Walthers made the discovery on the curb of where a bullet had struck. Either a fragment of the bullet or a piece of concrete had flown up to hit Tague in the cheek, and a visible mark was left on the curb. This mark remained unstudied for months until the FBI finally had the curb removed in 1964 and carted back to Washington, where it was discovered that the smear contained no copper, only lead and antimony. The implication of this finding was that since there was no copper on the curb, the bullet either didn't come from Oswald's rifle, which fired only copper-jacketed shells, or the mark had to have been made by a fragment of one of his bullets that had already shed its copper jacket by hitting some other object first. Theories have been presented that account for this by proposing that the fatal Kennedy head shot broke up on exiting his skull, traveled over the roll bar, then over the limousine's windshield to hit the Main St. curb 200 feet further down the road. Some dismiss this as rather fanciful. Another radical view has the first shot hitting a branch of the live oak in front of the Depository and breaking up over 300 feet from the Tague curb where a

fragment finally landed. Most researchers consider this theory also far-fetched. It remains a mystery how the sniper in the sixth floor window could have missed so badly as to strike the curb way down Main Street. Only a shot from another location begins to make sense, and this will be presented momentarily.

Here was evidence of still another missed shot, and Walthers was again right on the spot to investigate. Although he didn't know it at the time, the implications of these finds were enormous, because the manhole bullet could not have been the same one that caused the mark on the Main St. curb 200 feet away. The gouged-out scar in the manhole concrete and turf definitely did not line up with the direction of the Tague bullet mark. Walthers recognized this immediately, and sighted in the angle of the Main St. curb scar back toward the corner of Elm and Houston. He knew that the shot had originated at either the School Book Depository or the Dal-Tex Bldg. across Houston St., so Walthers ran back to this point and located Deputy Allan Sweatt, who was then told of the evidence of shots coming from the direction of the Depository.

By this time it was probably 12:45 or 12:50, considering photos showing the search at the manhole cover at 12:40, and this meant that it had taken twenty minutes before the order went out to surround and seal the Depository.⁸ Twenty minutes for any assassin or accomplice to slip out the front or the back doors and merge with the pandemonium out on the street. Even Oswald, who may or may not have been involved, and who didn't seem to be in any hurry to leave the scene, as he even offered his



WALTHERS POINTS TO MARK ON CURB

photo by Jim Underwood/ KRLD

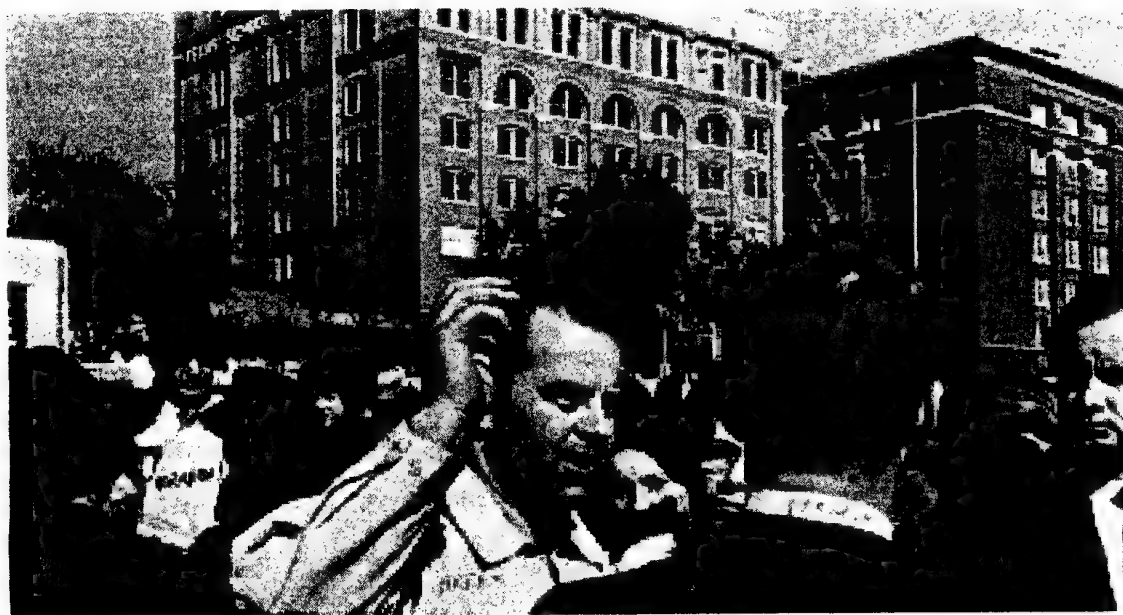


VIEW FROM MAIN STREET CURB WHERE TAGUE STOOD; DAL-TEX BUILDING
IS IN BACKGROUND

cab to an elderly woman downtown, was already back home in Oak Cliff by this time. It's inconceivable to me that no one had taken action to seal Dealey Plaza cars and witnesses in the area for this long until our Man of the Hour Buddy Walthers made the decisions to put this into motion. As the School Book Bldg. was being searched, he started gathering up witnesses, herding them into the Sheriff's Office where they could be deposed before their stories were contaminated by others or news reports. Here again Walthers exhibited the only good police work being done after the assassination, with so many officers just wandering about aimlessly in shock and delirium.

SINISTER SUSPECT IN THE DAL-TEX

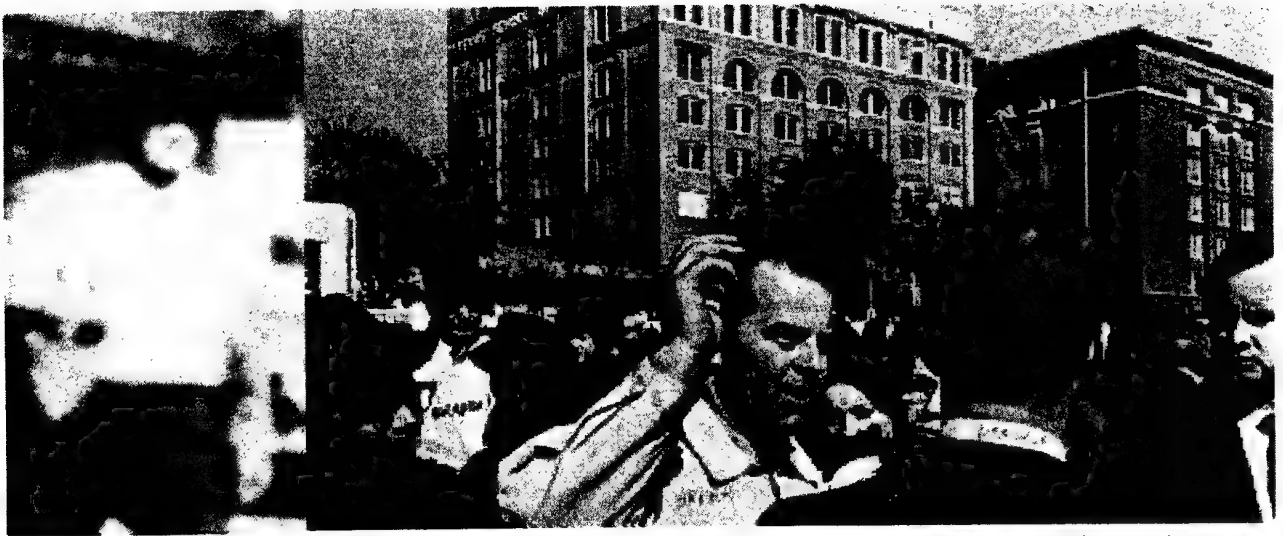
It was around this time that a suspicious character was apprehended trying to leave the aforementioned Dal-Tex Bldg., saying he had only been



BRADEN IN COWBOY HAT ON LEFT

there to make a phone call. His name was recorded in Sheriff's Dept. files as Jim Braden, ostensibly in Dallas on oil business.⁹ In fact, he had been to the offices of Lamar Hunt, son of the notorious right-wing leader and oil man H.L. Hunt, on the day before the assassination, as had Jack Ruby! Braden was taken in by Deputy "Lummie" Lewis, who took a statement from Braden and released him. Not until the Garrison investigation was it learned, in 1969, that Jim Braden was none other than Eugene Hale Brading, a career criminal with many Mob connections who had a long rap sheet, but nothing that put him away for very long. Oddly enough, Brading was in Los Angeles on the day Robert Kennedy was assassinated there at the Ambassador Hotel. Known more as a bagman than a sharpshooter, Brading nonetheless was picked up in the very building suspected of being an alternative sniper's perch in Dealey Plaza. He can be seen in the Jim Murray photographs of the men at the manhole cover in the background making his way across Elm Street from the direction of the Dal-Tex. If this is Brading in the Murray photos, it is a previously undiscovered identification of him and adds to our knowledge of his positions in Dealey Plaza after the shooting.

The Dal-Tex Bldg. appears in the background of the famous Altgens photo taken at the time of the first shot, and there under the fire escape where a man is sitting, an open window can be seen on the second floor that many believe is the location of a second assassin. This vantage point, from inside a small cloak closet looking out on the Plaza, has a much more unobstructed view of Elm St. compared to the sixth floor window of the



Two pictures of Eugene Hale Brading, alias Jim Braden, in black cowboy hat. Braden is a known bagman for organized crime with over thirty arrests on his record. He was arrested and briefly detained on the third floor of the Dal-Tex Bldg. while trying to use the phone and acting suspiciously. The day before, he had been to the offices of Lamar Hunt (son of the oil tycoon H.L. Hunt) on business. Jack Ruby was in the Hunt offices on the same day and met with two Chicago friends that night at the same hotel in which Braden and a friend were staying. Braden had checked in with his parole officer upon his arrival in Dallas under his real name, but when arrested after the assassination, he gave his assumed name which had been legally changed two months earlier, thereby avoiding suspicion. Oddly enough, Braden was also at the scene of the Robert Kennedy murder five years later.



Braden walking across Elm St. toward the manhole while Walthers picks up the item in the grass.



Walthers retrieves object from grass as Braden walks over

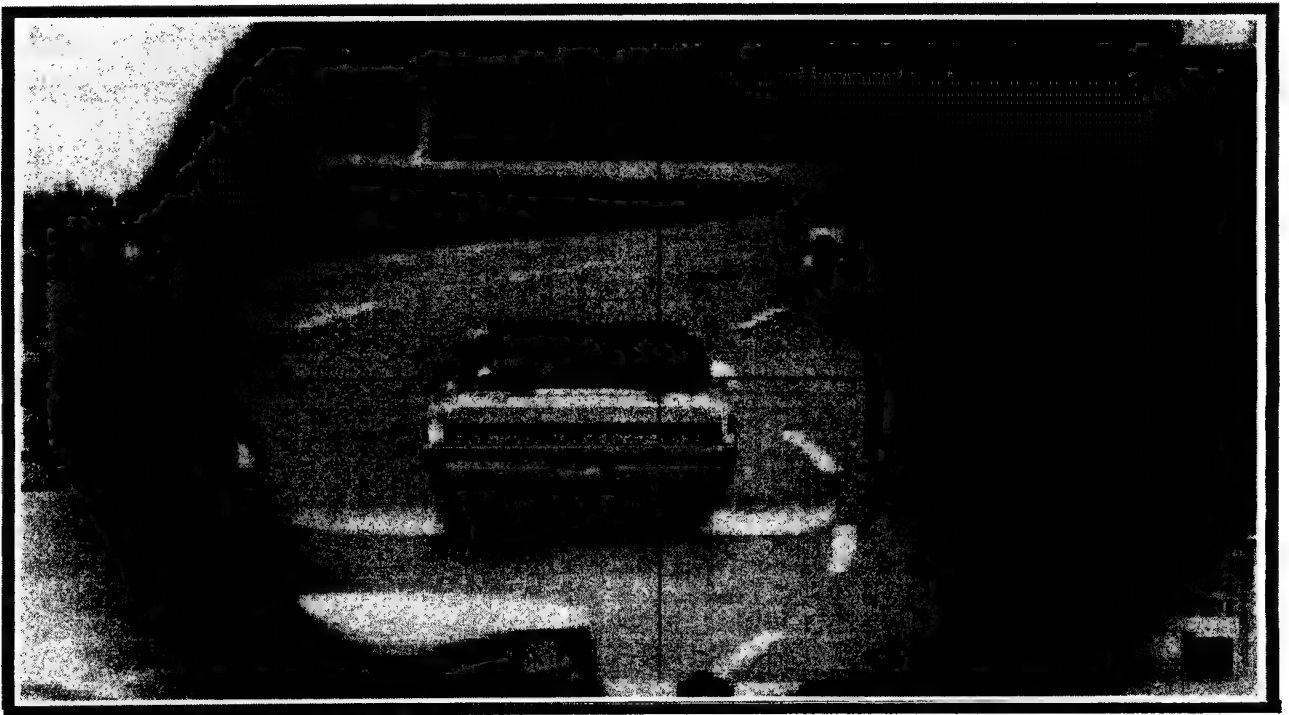


Figure 2 TELESCOPIC VIEW FROM 2ND FLOOR BROOM CLOSET IN DAL-TEX Depository, and the direction of the Main St. curb nick and the manhole cover gouge are much more in line with the Dal-Tex than the Book Bldg. Studies have been done proving that a shot from this location, passing within inches of JFK's head at Zapruder frame 285, could have been the miss that caused the nick on the Main St. curb near James Tague. In fact, the limousine stayed in line with this curb and the closet window for quite some time, as the motorcade traveled directly away from the Dal-Tex Bldg.

Since no bullet was ever entered into evidence from the manhole cover turf search, the only evidence the Warren Commission was interested in became the James Tague curb shot, judged to be a fresh bullet mark, proof of a missed shot. This miss actually necessitated the invention of the

Single Bullet Theory to account for the three spent shells found in the sniper's perch on the sixth floor of the Depository. The Commission reasoned that if the first shot missed and the third shot hit Kennedy in the head, then the second shot must have caused all the other wounds found on the President and Governor Connally. There aren't many left who really hold to this tenuous, convoluted hypothesis of the Miracle Bullet, found on a stretcher in Parkland Hospital in an almost pristine state (after supposedly causing seven wounds and shattering a rib and a wrist). What were they to do with reports of other shots like the manhole scar and gouge, or the report by five witnesses that saw a bullet strike the pavement on Elm St. behind the limousine, kicking up concrete as the car passed the front steps of the Depository? What about a document just released by the Assassination Records Review Board discussing the finding of a Johnson 30.06 rifle in Dealey Plaza after the shooting that was linked to two soldiers of fortune and Cuba Freedom Fighters Gerry Patrick Hemming and Loran Hall? Or the four-inch mark on the sidewalk North of Elm St. said to be a bullet path, verified by Eugene Aldredge and Morning News reporter Carl Freund? When they informed the FBI of this mark, they returned less than a week later and found that the 1/4 inch deep gouge had been filled in with a mixture of concrete and asbestos in a crude attempt to make it match the surrounding concrete. Some witnesses said that the Stemmons Freeway sign on Elm St. had a bullet hole after the shooting, but before this could be verified, the sign had been dismantled by persons unknown and hauled away the day after the assassination.

Any one of these extra shots, if verified, would have meant the



GRAZE MARK ON SEWER COVER AT SOUTH SIDE OF ELM STREET

destruction of the Lone Gunman Theory and Miracle Bullet Hypothesis, proving a conspiracy and accomplices, which is exactly what LBJ and Hoover could not afford to have in the days and weeks after Kennedy's death, for if there was evidence of a Communist conspiracy, then that might mean the start of a nuclear war with the Soviet Union and the annihilation of millions of souls. There was also no great love lost between these two and JFK, so a deranged Lone Nut gunman became a very convenient explanation for the act that left them in power, both of whom had precarious holds on their offices before the assassination. Johnson was about to be dropped from the Kennedy ticket because of his ties to Bobby Baker and Billie Sol Estes, and Hoover was afraid the Kennedys were going to retire him from the FBI if re-elected. The investigation of JFK's death was taken from the Texas authorities and put into the hands of the FBI, who proceeded to quash every report that led to a conspiracy. Whatever their motives, much evidence was "overlooked" and ignored for the sake of the peace of the nation, at the expense of government credibility and idealism in our democracy. Our innocence was truly lost that day.

OFFICER DOWN

1:16

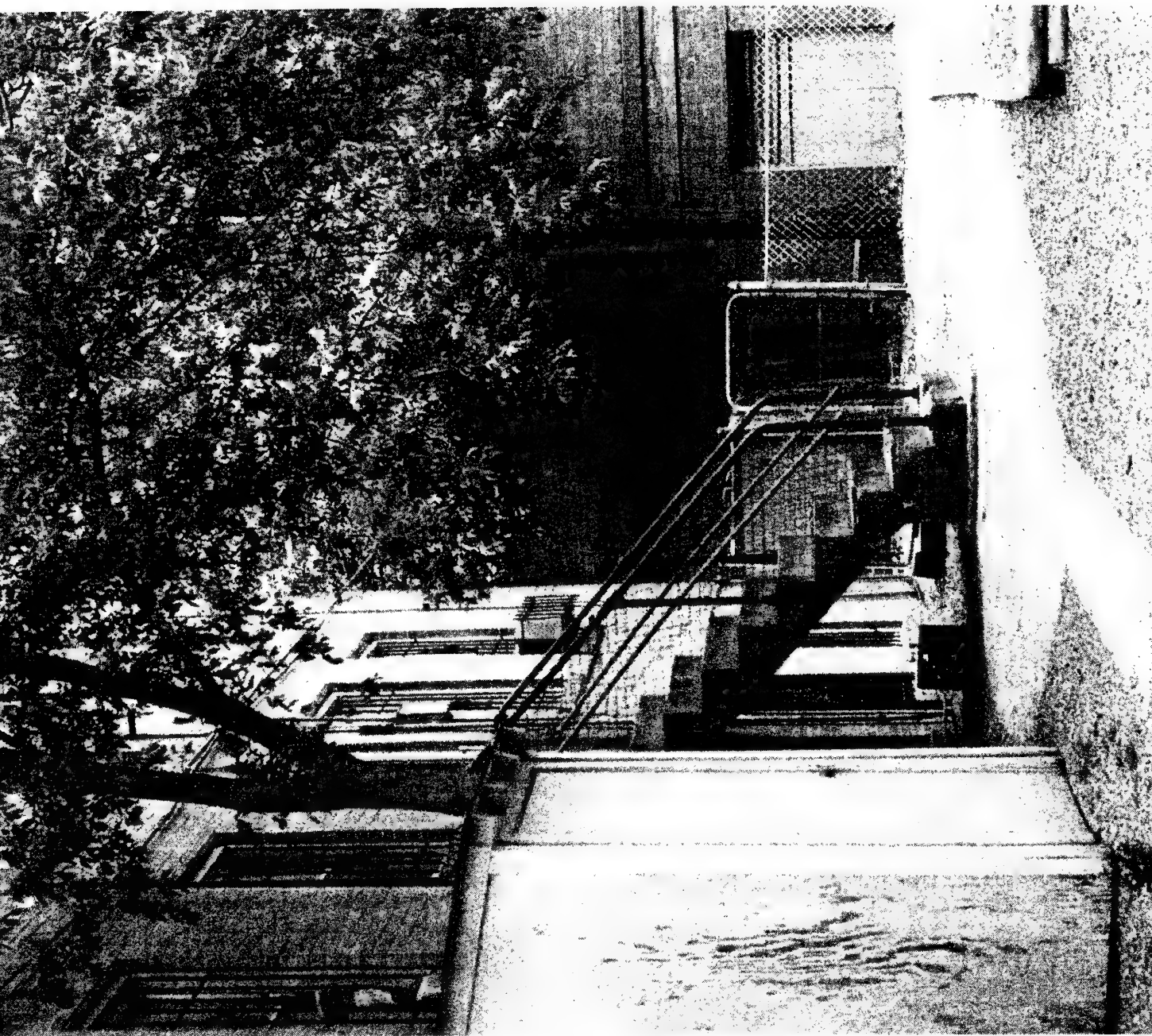
As Walthers exited the back door of the County Jail after rounding up the witnesses and suspects, an officer came from the Records Bldg. and gave him the news that a policeman had just been killed in Oak Cliff. Since all available men were downtown, Walthers took two civil deputies and

drove to Oak Cliff, where at the corner of Zang and Jefferson he first heard on the radio that the President had been shot and killed. Immediately after this, about 1:30, the dispatcher ordered all available cars to the library at Marsalis and Jefferson, where the suspect in Officer Tippit's killing was supposedly hiding. Many officers surrounded the building, but soon learned it was a false alarm.

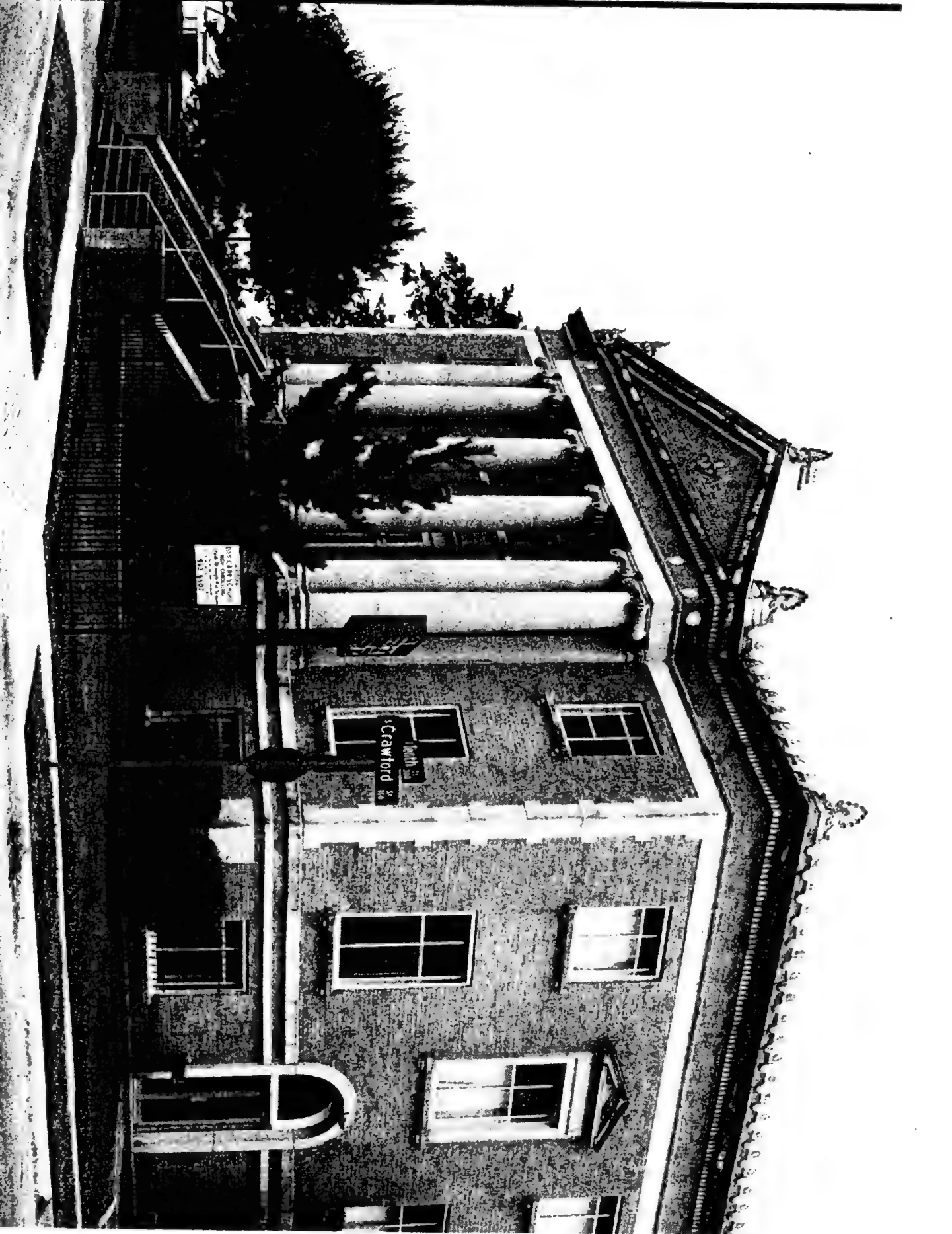
THE SUSPECT FINDS SANCTUARY

Another report of the suspect's whereabouts came at this time, about 1:41. Sgt. Gerald Hill came on the air to say that the suspect was seen running into the Abundant Life Temple at Tenth and Crawford. The killer's steps had been retraced from Tenth and Patton where the murder took place to a Texaco station at Jefferson and Crawford. A white jacket was found at the rear of the station which the Commission said was Oswald's. It then had the killer reverse his path back to Jefferson and on to the Texas Theater. But straight behind the Texaco was an alley leading to the back door of the Abundant Life Temple, where witnesses had seen the suspect heading.

The Abundant Life Temple takes us into a labyrinth from which we might never re-emerge, so we must hold to the surface as much as possible. Suffice it to say that it was part of a network run by H. L. Hunt, Carl McIntire and Billy James Hargis called the American Council of Christian Churches, a right-wing organization that involved itself politically with many Cold War efforts, including the struggle to free Cuba



VIEW FROM REAR OF ABUNDANT LIFE TEMPLE SHOT FROM ALLEY BEHIND
GAS STATION WHERE JACKET WAS FOUND



THE ABUNDANT LIFE TEMPLE

from the chains of Castro. General Edwin Walker, Maj. Gen. Charles A. Willoughby, Edgar Eugene Bradley, Fred Crisman, David Ferrie, Jack Martin, Thomas Edward Beckham, O. B. Graham, Laverne Crafard, and Albert Osborne/John Bowen are but a few of the personalities that lent themselves to the cause of fighting Communism worldwide through this network. These men were extremely anti-Kennedy because of his efforts to appease Castro and Krushchev instead of starting World War III. In particular, they were angry that Kennedy withdrew air support for the invading exiles at the Bay of Pigs, an ill-advised CIA offensive, and Kennedy's deal with Krushchev following the Cuban Missile Crisis. It is now common knowledge that the CIA supported anti-Castro Cuban efforts through such organizations as the A.C.C.C. because it afforded them a cover with which they could slip their agents in and out of foreign countries at will without attracting attention, plus they were convenient for collecting moneys that could be laundered easily.

Jim Garrison uncovered a mysterious organization based in Columbus, Ohio and Huntsville, Alabama called the Defense Industrial Security Command, or DISC. He traced DISC to its larger umbrella, Division Five of the FBI and the Defense Intelligence Agency supervised by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon. Garrison went so far as to say that Kennedy had been killed by elements of the industrial warfare complex working in concert with individuals in the U.S. Government, because of JFK's desire to end the Cold War, a struggle worth over 20 billion dollars a year to the defense industry. He believed that the American Council of Christian Churches was controlled or used by DISC through men like Fred Crisman,

Albert Osborne, David Ferrie, Jack Martin, Maurice Brooks Gatlin and Thomas Beckham, who along with Ruby, Carlos Prio, Clay Shaw, Guy Banister, and Sergio Arcacha Smith all followed the orders of Jean de Menil of Houston, Major Louis Bloomfield in Montreal, Werner von Braun in Redstone, Alabama, Ferenc Nagy and Walter Dornberger of Bell Helicopter in Dallas. Adolf Hitler is alive and well and living in your backyard.

The Abundant Life Temple in Oak Cliff has been suggested as a "safe house" for one William Seymour, an Oswald impersonator who associated with anti-Castro exiles, Minutemen, and other soldiers-of-fortune. Another aspect of the A.C.C.C. is its association with known assassins such as Albert Osborne, alias John Bowen. Osborne accompanied Oswald on his bus trip to Mexico in September, 1963, and he was well-known to the D. A. in Alice, Texas, Sam Burris, and the Special Assistant to the Attorney General of Texas, Bill Alcorn, as the contact man for 25 to 30 assassins based in Mexico, who were used by the U.S. Government for both international and domestic liquidations. The informant that brought this to the surface was indicted in 1952 for the attempted murder of Jake Floyd, District Judge in Alice. The assassins mistakenly killed the judge's son, Buddy, who resembled him. The informant explained that the cover Osborne was using was that of a "missionary for the A.C.C.C." Osborne was in Clay Shaw's office at 124 Camp Street in New Orleans, on October 10, 1963.

Other churches associated with the A.C.C.C. were the Universal Life Church of Fred Crisman, the Order of St. John, the United Cuban Relief

Blakey, Klein, Fenton
August 18, 1977
Page Three

Lake Pontchartrain and possibly a transfer point for those in the anti-Castro movement operating between Miami and New Orleans. On one occasion Beckham recalls having flown a large suitcase filled with money to Miami with Arcacha and Rabel. After it was delivered to the three Cuban males and the one female, Beckham was approached by Eugenio Martinez (later of Watergate fame) to whom Beckham told of being a "Priest in the Catholic Church." Martinez smiled knowingly and responded, "I know, I'm your Bishop."

In November of 1963, approximately two weeks before the assassination of JFK, Beckham was given \$200 by David Ferrie and told to fly to Dallas, Texas to deliver a package to someone he was to meet at the Executive Motel. Beckham noticed that photographs of buildings and maps of the streets were put into the package he was to deliver. Beckham arrived in Dallas at the appointed time, went to the motel, and as he got out of the car, met his contact. Beckham states the individual was Lawrence Howard and that upon opening the package stated, "This is not all of it. What is going on here?"

Beckham left New Orleans shortly after the assassination at the behest of F. Lee Crisman, and with the assurances of Banister that "there were individuals that would keep the Warren Commission from finding out about the little group." Beckham was told to keep out of sight when that investigation began.

Beckham was an associate of Fred Lee Crisman. Crisman used Beckham to head various "fronts" that Crisman used for his own purposes. These fronts were usually "odd churches" such as the Universal Life Church, the Abundant Life Church, Old Orthodox Catholic Church, Priesthood of the Holy Orthodox Christian Church. On other occasions these fronts took the form of professional offices, as in one case in Tacoma, Washington, Beckham was set up in a psychology office. One of these fronts was with Col. Laourey of Offett Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. In this instance Laourey and Beckham ran the "B&L" Book Store for Crisman, and as Beckham explained, "I had free access to and from this SAC Base, Crisman using the store for meetings and various things (I) was unaware." Beckham stated unequivocally that Crisman is with the CIA exclusively and operates in some instances with what can best be described as the "Mafia wing" of the CIA, used whenever necessary to perform various functions.

HSCA document referring to the Abundant Life Church, associated with Crisman and Beckham



THE TEXAS THEATER TODAY

Missionary Force, the Holy Orthodox Christian Church, and the Old Catholic Church of North America, of which David Ferrie and Jack Martin were associated. Thomas Edward Beckham of New Orleans, who knew Oswald, Ferrie, Martin, Clay Shaw, and others in the Kennedy plot is currently under scrutiny for his association with the Abundant Life Temple, and further updates are forthcoming.¹⁰

See Appendix for further information.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON MOVIE

1:45

Before the converging police and law officers could blanket the church, they received another call to head to the Texas Theater on Jefferson, twelve blocks away. Buddy Walthers and his two deputies raced to the scene along with an army of other officers, and were told that the suspect was sitting in the balcony of the theater. Walthers parked in the traffic lane just east of the entrance, and took his sawed-off shotgun inside where he found the manager, who was told to turn on the house lights. Our deputy ran up the stairs to the balcony, but there was no one there. It was vacant. Walthers ran to the rail and saw some confusion down in the center section toward the back, so he yelled to other officers pouring in to the balcony that the suspect was downstairs. Then he raced down the steps and laid his shotgun across some seats before heading to the aisle where a scuffle was taking place. He saw two different hands wrapped around a pistol, and as B. K. Carroll converged on the spot from the opposite side, Walthers grabbed hold of the hands that held the gun

while Carroll wrestled the pistol free. The suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, was then subdued by four or five other officers and led away to jail amid the confusion and mayhem of dozens of citizens trying to get their hands on Oswald to tear him to pieces. Walthers used his shotgun as a battering ram to make a way through the crowd to get Oswald to the squad car. Once again we find Buddy Walthers at the hub of the action, and either by happenstance or sheer intuition, making his mark on nearly every aspect of the case that day."¹¹

"WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU"

2:15

Somehow he got back to the station without his two passengers, as he couldn't find them after Oswald's arrest, and when he arrived Sheriff Decker gave him a piece of paper with an address on it to check out.¹² So Walthers took Deputies Harry Weatherford and J. L. Oxford and drove to 2515 West Fifth St. in Irving, the address of Mrs. Ruth Paine, who lived with Marina Oswald and her two children. The address had been obtained by checking the records in the Texas School Book Depository of all employees that did not report back to work after the shooting.¹³ This address in Irving was listed by Oswald's name, although he actually lived at another location. By this time, of course, Oswald had been arrested for the murder of Tippit, but not yet charged with the President's death.

On arriving at the Paine house around 3:00, the deputies were met at the porch by Irving police officers R. S. Stovall, H. M. Moore, J. P. Adamcik,



THE PAINE HOUSE ON 5TH STREET IN IRVING, TEXAS

J. A. McCabe, and G. F. Rose. Just then the front door opened and Ruth Paine greeted them all with the words, "Come on in -- we've been expecting you." Why would she say this when they didn't even know yet that Oswald had been arrested? This remains a mystery. They were all invited into the house, and no objection was made to the officers searching the house. Marina was there but spoke very little English, and while Officer Rose asked most of the questions to Mrs. Paine, the rest searched the premises for evidence. It wasn't long before Walthers got to the garage, where most of the incriminating discoveries were made.

FAIR PLAY

First, they found a large pasteboard barrel filled with gold colored leaflets that said, "Fair Play For Cuba," the same leaflets Oswald had passed out in New Orleans in August on Canal Street. Oswald had made sure his demonstration was well-documented with television coverage and a fake fist-fight with Carlos Bringuere, an anti-Castro Cuban with whom Oswald was acquainted. He had been arrested for the altercation, and Oswald tried to use his arrest record and newspaper articles as credentials on applying for a Cuban visa in late September in Mexico City. It is believed by many that Oswald was trying to paint himself as a Communist to help him infiltrate left-leaning political groups and facilitate his travel to Communist countries. Information surfaced soon after his arrest told by Deputy Allan Sweatt to journalist Lonnie Hudkins that Oswald was an informant for the FBI that was paid \$200. per month and had informant number S-172, but this fact was quickly disavowed by

Hoover himself. It is now known that our government employed many "agents provocateur" in their efforts to cause infighting among rebel groups and report on the identities of attenders. Oswald was a prime candidate for such missions with his history of Marine Corps service, time spent in Russia, and command of foreign languages. It is difficult to determine at this point to whom Oswald paid allegiance, but some researchers believe he was being used by CIA or other intelligence agencies in the effort to cause an invasion of Cuba. Whether or not Oswald was involved in the assassination, his arrest was designed to make Castro look responsible, thereby swaying public opinion toward an attack on Cuba. Some of his leaflets were stamped with the address "544 Camp Street," which housed the offices of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, an anti-Castro organization subsidized by the CIA, and the offices of Guy Banister, a right-wing ex-FBI agent who was helping to organize, arm, and implement the invasion of Cuba. This showed us who was really responsible.

Also in the garage Walthers found a grey blanket with red trim that had a string tied around one end that when examined showed the imprint of a rifle. This was important evidence, although Oswald was never given a chance to explain what could have given the blanket the appearance that it had contained a rifle. However, it was later determined that some of the blanket fibers had been detected on the Mannlicher Carcano rifle found in the Depository.

Walthers and the officers also found six or seven metal filing cabinets

full of letters, maps, records, and index cards with names of pro-Castro sympathizers. All the evidence found was put into the trunk of Walthers car and taken back to the Sheriff's Office.

PHOTOS OF A PATSY

He mentioned in his Warren Commission testimony one more item that was found, perhaps the most explosive of all: a box of photographs containing a shot of Oswald in his backyard holding guns and Marxist magazines that would later grace the cover of Life Magazine as proof that he was the assassin of Kennedy.¹⁴ The box also held a picture of the back of a house that later proved to be the residence of Gen. Edwin A. Walker, who had been the object of another assassination attempt himself, in April of 1963. Another incriminating artifact that the box contained was an ad for Klein's Sporting Goods of Chicago, the mail order house through which Oswald had purchased his rifle. Not bad for an afternoon's work!

Marina was later coerced into admitting that she had taken the photo of Oswald in the backyard holding the guns, and she reported that her husband confessed to her the assassination attempt on Walker in April. These two pieces of evidence coupled with Marina's testimony (although she was threatened with deportation), just might have meant the death penalty for Oswald, had he lived. In his interrogation by Capt. Will Fritz on the night of the 22nd, Oswald was confronted with the backyard photograph, but it was reported that he adamantly denied being the person in the picture, that his head had been spliced onto another man's body, and

that if given time he would show how it was done.

Ballistics tests done on the Magic Bullet found on the stretcher at Parkland were compared with the bullet held as evidence in the Gen. Walker shooting and were found to be a match, in spite of the fact that the bullet found at Walker's home was originally reported to the newspapers as a 30.06 (or 7.65mm) caliber. The chain of evidence on the Walker bullet was broken in the authorities' enthusiasm to prove that Oswald was responsible, and even Walker himself said that the bullet tested was not the same one found at his home in April. There's that blasted 7.65 slug again! In any case, Oswald was posthumously found guilty of the attack on Walker owing to the picture that Walthers found in the Paine's garage.

As he was walking back through the Paine house, Mrs. Paine got a phone number from Marina and gave it to Walthers, saying that this was a number where Oswald could be reached in Oak Cliff. Walthers immediately phoned Sheriff Decker with the information, knowing that Oswald's address could be located by cross-referencing the phone number in a special directory. This is the manner in which Oswald's address was located, and again we have Buddy Walthers to thank for this tidbit.

Right after the call to Decker, Michael Paine, the estranged husband of Ruth Paine, walked in. Walthers knew from talking to Mrs. Paine that she and her husband were separated, so he asked Mr. Paine why he had chosen to come home at this moment in time. Paine replied that after he had heard the news of Kennedy's assassination, he had simply decided to

take off from his job at Bell Helicopter in Grand Prairie and drive home to see his wife. Paine could have heard of Oswald's arrest by this time, so maybe it's not as suspicious as it looks, but the reactions of both the Paines need to be studied more carefully, as well as their affiliations with certain political groups before the assassination. They were later overheard on the telephone to say, "We both know who is responsible." Michael Paine was asked on March 18, 1964, by Warren Commission attorney Wesley Liebeler about this statement, and he denied making the remark or knowing who the assassin was. As part of the military/industrial complex at Bell Helicopter, under General Walter Dornberger, ex-Nazi scientist with fascist leanings, many researchers believe Michael Paine to be suspect in that he vigorously opposed Kennedy's policies of detente and compromise, especially where Viet Nam was concerned. Everyone knows how much Bell stood to gain from escalated action in Southeast Asia, something Kennedy had just decided against. Mr. Paine volunteered immediately the information to Walthers that Oswald was a Communist. On reading Walthers testimony, it appears that he was a little suspicious of Michael Paine himself. There's that old intuition again.

It should be mentioned that before leaving the Paines' residence, Walthers noticed that Mrs. Paine had a light green station wagon with a luggage rack parked in the driveway. It is the investigator's power of observation that makes him valuable, and we will see later how this iota of information will have great ramifications on the case concerning Oswald and the Paines' involvement in the crime and its aftermath.

CALL IT A DAY

4:30

At this point, Walthers put Marina, the kids, and the Paines in his car, and with all the evidence and witnesses aboard drove back to the police station where he turned it all over to Will Fritz. The Deputy's work day was finally winding down, one of the busiest in his memory. He had taken part in witnessing the assassination, chasing the sniper(s) behind the grassy knoll, cataloguing the evidence of at least two extra bullets that missed the mark, locating and deposing witnesses and suspects, chasing the killer of Officer Tippit through three locations in Oak Cliff, wrestling Oswald down in the Texas Theater, searching his belongings in Irving, and turning in the most incriminating evidence next to the rifle itself! Most detectives would probably call it quits at that point and go home to lick their wounds, but Walthers still had a few issues to deal with before the day was to be done, as we shall presently see.

CHAPTER TWO

THE OTHER BUSY DEPUTY

There has been much written about Roger Craig already, but as he is connected with this study and knew Walthers personally, it would be helpful to focus on his story for a moment. Craig was named the Dallas Sheriff's Department "Officer of the Year" in 1960 by the Dallas Traffic Commission and received four promotions during his tenure as deputy Sheriff. However, because of what he witnessed, the 22nd of November '63 was to change forever the direction of his life in law enforcement.

At approximately 12:40 p.m. Craig was standing on the south side of Elm Street when he heard a shrill whistle from the grassy knoll and turned to see a white male in his twenties come running from the direction of the Depository down the hill toward a light green Rambler station wagon traveling slowly west on Elm. The Rambler pulled over to the north curb and picked up the running man, but by this time the traffic was too heavy for Craig to be able to apprehend them before the car drove away west on Elm. He had gotten a good look at the driver as well, who was a husky looking Latin with dark, wavy hair wearing a tan windbreaker. The man in flight was wearing faded blue trousers and a grainy, long-sleeved work shirt, which became important details later on as we shall see.

Deputy Craig thought the incident noteworthy enough to bring to the attention of the authorities at the command post at Elm and Houston, so he ran to the front of the Depository and asked for anyone involved in the

investigation. A man on the steps told Craig he was with the Secret Service. He was about 40 years old, sandy-haired with a cleft in his chin, well-dressed in a gray business suit. As Craig related the information about the fleeing men, he noticed the agent was only interested in the description of the Rambler, not the men themselves.

It wasn't until December 22, 1967 that Craig learned the real identity of the agent he had reported to that day. A picture of the man flashed across the TV screen during a report on the Garrison investigation going on at that time in New Orleans, and Garrison was charging this same man with being a part of the assassination plot. Craig called Garrison immediately, who sent an investigator with a better picture of the man, which Craig promptly identified. He learned that this man's name was Edgar Eugene Bradley,¹⁶ an evangelist working as the California representative of Carl McIntire of New Jersey and the American Council of Christian Churches. Bradley was said to be a former OSS officer still active in intelligence circles and splinter groups of the infamous Minutemen, and was reported to have known many in the anti-Castro Cuban network such as Loran Hall and David Ferrie, in whose company he was seen two different times during the summer of '63 at the Lakefront Airport of New Orleans by Court Clerk and pilot Max Gonzalez. A letter written by Bradley in early 1964 to a young woman came into the possession of attorney Mark Lane in which Bradley asserted that he knew "facts about the Kennedy assassination case that the public will never know about, and you can be sure that Oswald was not the only one involved." Bradley was trying to get the woman to give him an alibi for

November 21st and 22nd, 1963, but the woman refused to sign the affidavit, as it was untrue. She told Lane she had seen him on the 20th, but not on the day of the assassination. He remains one of the many shadowy figures of the case that was tied in to the web of right-wing Fascists using the church as their cover and shield. What a coincidence that two men with such similar names as Edgar Eugene Bradley and Eugene Hale Brading would be seen at the same corner and the same time-frame, both allegedly involved somehow in the conspiracy. See the appendix for more information on this network.

Oddly enough, the Rambler and Craig can be seen in the series of photos taken of Walthers and the mystery man searching for the bullet in the grass by the manhole cover south of Elm at 12:40. The Rambler station wagon is actually seen turning the corner from Houston onto Elm and making its way toward the underpass, just as Craig had told the Warren Commission. There are too many people on the knoll in the photos to be able to pick out the man on the run spoken of by Craig, but we do see the deputy craning his neck around, apparently looking for something that had attracted his attention. In the next photo of the series, we notice that only Craig is absent, seemingly after chasing the suspects down the street as he reported. He never wavered from his story that the man seen running down the knoll and jumping in the Rambler was later recognized by Craig as Lee Harvey Oswald or else his twin brother. Strangely, that Oswald had a double or an impersonator is still a distinct possibility, as there were many reports after the assassination of men answering the description of Oswald having been in diverse locations in Dallas and elsewhere, at times

that were physically impossible for it to have been the real Oswald. He even left his name at a gun shop, a car dealership, a rifle range, and a hotel when the real Oswald was working at the School Book Depository, so the framing of Oswald as a hothead Communist gun-lover by some as yet unknown group or individual is within the realm of feasibility.

Later in the afternoon of the assassination Craig received word that a suspect had been apprehended by police that was thought to have played a part in the President's shooting, and he immediately thought of the man on the knoll, so he called Captain Will Fritz and gave him a description of the man he had seen. Fritz replied that it sounded like their suspect, so he told Craig to come down and take a look. Sure enough, on seeing the man in Fritz's office, he recognized Oswald right away as the man in question. Fritz told Oswald that Craig had seen him leave Dealey Plaza and asked him about the car. Oswald reacted by saying, "That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Paine -- don't try to drag her into this," after which he replied, "Everybody will know who I am now," with a tone of disappointment.

First of all, how did Oswald know about the station wagon? Fritz had only mentioned a 'car'. Secondly, how did Oswald know that Mrs. Paine was not involved? This mistake on his part only serves to prove that Oswald had a certain amount of knowledge of the crime. It has never been the premise of this paper to absolve Oswald of all guilt in the crime. On the contrary, Oswald had a lot of explaining to do. Unfortunately, Jack Ruby

7 January 1965

Captain W.P. Gannaway
Special Service Bureau
Dallas Police Department

Thru:
Lieutenant Jack Revill
Criminal Intelligence Section
Special Service Bureau
Dallas Police Department

SUBJECT: CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE (4)
MICHAEL R. PAINE

Sir:

The following automobiles were observed at SUBJECT'S residence, 2515 W. FIFTH STREET, IRVING, TEXAS.

A 1959 Citroen, 4 door, color black and yellow, Texas 64 license PU-4474. This vehicle is registered to SUBJECT at the above address. (parked in driveway)

A 1955 Chevrolet, station wagon, Texas 64 license PU-4475. This vehicle is registered to RUTH PAINE, SUBJECT'S wife, at the above address. (parked in driveway)

A 1954-56 Oldsmobile, color blue and white, Texas 64 license NY-9880. Registration on this vehicle is not available at this time. (parked in front of the house)

Respectfully submitted,

R. Westphal
R.W. Westphal, Detective
Criminal Intelligence Section

OFFICERS COMMENT: MARINA OSWALD was living with SUBJECT and RUTH PAINE at the time of President Kennedy's assassination.

An inquiry has been sent to the Texas Department of Public Safety to determine the owner NY-9880.

1-15-65
5
DET 7965-10-

Figure 3 Police report describing the Paine automobiles silenced him before any of these questions could be answered.



Figure 4 RELEASED
ARRESTEE

Walthers saw Craig back at the Sheriff's office and told him that he had seen Mrs. Paine's car in her driveway in Irving, and indeed it was a light green station wagon with a luggage rack, although it was a Chevrolet instead of a Rambler. Craig had identified the car by its luggage rack, thinking that only a Rambler had that particular rear-mounted style rack, so he could have been mistaken as to whether it was a Nash or Chevy.

But there were other witnesses to a Nash. Among these is Richard Randolph Carr, who had seen a man in an upper floor of the Book Depository and immediately after the assassination watched the same man and two others get into a Nash Rambler on Houston Street. He also said the driver of this car was either Spanish or Cuban and "real dark complected." Another witness was Marvin C. Robinson, who saw a "light colored station wagon" stop in front of the grassy knoll where a white man ran and jumped into the car. His story was omitted from the Warren Commission exhibits. Can all these witnesses have mistaken Ruth Paine's 1955 Chevrolet station wagon for a Nash Rambler? Oswald was probably right when he said that she had nothing to do with the getaway car. ¶But what gave him this knowledge?

Craig revealed in his unpublished manuscript that the Warren Commission testimony had been corrupted from his original statements. For instance, the "light green" station wagon was changed to "white," as was the tan jacket of the Rambler driver. He also stated that the license



Photo showing Rambler turning corner at Houston Street. Walthers appears in foreground.



Unidentified serviceman picks up something in grass as Rambler appears above kneeling deputy Walthers.

plates on the car were “not” the same color as Texas plates, but the Commission omitted the word ‘not.’ He said he got a good look at the driver; this was changed to ‘did not get a good look,’ etc. Craig learned from Jim Garrison in 1967 that a mysterious Latin male had been arrested in Dealey Plaza following the assassination, but was released because he could not speak English!¹⁷ Garrison showed Craig a picture taken in Dealey Plaza that showed a man that Craig recognized as the driver of the Rambler, but he has never been identified.

One of the most fascinating and intriguing accounts of the Rambler wagon is told by researcher Richard Bartholomew of Pflugerville, Texas. His story of “The Possible Discovery of an Automobile Used in the JFK Conspiracy” is filled with coincidences that boggle the mind and which are too numerous and complicated to be explained here, but we can examine the other sightings and investigations that were cited in his paper.

Bartholomew himself discovered a 1959 Rambler station wagon in May, 1989, still in use on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin which fit the description of the car seen by Craig and others in 1963. He traced its owner by the Department of Motor Vehicles to a Mr. George Gordon Wing of Austin, who bought the car from C.B. Smith Motors. Its earlier lineage could not be traced, as the records prior to title numbers beginning with the digits 85 were routinely destroyed, which included those for this car. Wing and Smith, to make a long story short, were friends of Lyndon Johnson associated with Latin American studies at the

University. It is heartily recommended that the reader find a copy of Bartholomew's tale and study it for himself. It reads like a Sherlock Holmes mystery.

He also relates in the paper that researcher Greg Jaynes discovered a Rambler station wagon visible at Record and Main Streets in the Patsy Paschall film, perhaps the same as the car seen by Richard Carr at the same general location, but not the same as the Rambler parked on Houston Street north of Elm at the time of the assassination. This vehicle may be seen in the Weaver Polaroid appearing on P.243 of Richard Trask's Pictures of the Pain, in the railroad yard in Murray photos #5 and #6 (Trask 494), and the Bell film (Grodin's The Killing of a President, P. 68). There is also a Rambler station wagon seen in the documentary film "Four Days in November" as the ambulance leaves Parkland Hospital for Love Field.

A House Select Committee document, 1801007610360, NARA file #006795, dated 3/31/78, also reveals some investigation of a Rambler station wagon in connection with General Edwin Walker, the car being observed at his residence on April 10, 1963 (the same day someone took a potshot at the General). The one-page FAA document on which the HSCA probe is based originated from a flight plan filed by David Ferrie on April 8, 1963. Apparently, he flew three passengers (Hidell, Lambert, and Diaz) from Hammond, Louisiana to Garland, Texas. The Committee had traced a light-colored 1959 station wagon seen at this Garland airstrip at that time to one noticed at General Walker's house , as well as the railroad

yard west of the Book depository on Nov. 22, 1963. They found it to be connected to a 1959 wagon bought in Houston, Texas in February or March of '63.

Another NARA document, 124-10005-10159, agency file #89-43-581, is a report filed by the FBI concerning Norman Deuel, a retired police inspector from Oakland, California who was watching television reports following the assassination when he distinctly heard a male voice in the audio background comment about a white station wagon that left the scene at a high rate of speed. He subsequently heard reports that associated a light colored station wagon with Texas plates as having helped move Oswald from a residence where he owed back rent. This reminds us of the Ruth Paine wagon that moved the Oswald family back to Dallas from New Orleans in August, 1963. In June, 1967, the Dallas Police were still following up on this station wagon surveillance, as Officers A. J. Carroll and R. W. Westphal filed a report on a 1959 Plymouth station wagon, green and white, located in the driveway of the Paine residence, at that time 1028 Woodleigh, Irving, Texas. The car was registered to Gens Conden Walker of 4610 Bluffview Blvd. in Dallas.

Deputy Craig was assigned to help the police search the Depository at 12:50 when it was identified by Walthers as the building from which the shot to the Main Street curb must have come. Craig was one of two people to find the three cartridges below the sixth floor sniper's window. All three were no more than an inch apart and lined up in the same direction, as if deliberately set down in this manner. This configuration was

contaminated by policemen before the site could be photographed.

He was also present when the rifle was found, and, along with Deputy Eugene Boone who had first spotted the weapon, was joined by DPD Lt. Day, Capt. Fritz, and Constable Seymour Weitzman, an expert on weapons in the sporting goods business familiar with all makes and models of guns, domestic and foreign. Day and Fritz both examined the rifle and asked if anyone knew what kind it was. After a close examination, Weitzman declared it to be a 7.65 German Mauser. (There's that pesky 30.06 again) Capt. Fritz agreed with him, and this explains the initial news reports of a Mauser being found.

Precisely at this moment, a DPD officer ran up the stairs and announced that a Dallas policeman had just been shot in Oak Cliff. Craig instinctively looked at his watch: 1:06 p.m. The Warren Commission had placed the time of Tippit's death past 1:15 to allow Oswald enough time to get home and walk to the scene of the officer's murder. As Oswald's landlady had reported seeing him standing by the bus stop across from his rooming house at about 1:05, still almost a mile away from 10th and Patton where Tippit was killed, this time-frame simply wouldn't fit in the Lone Deranged Gunman Scenario. The speed of Oswald's supposed flight from the Depository to his alleged crimes and movements in Oak Cliff remains one of the unexplained facets of the Kennedy Case.

Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig never budged from his story of what he had witnessed on Friday, November 22, 1963, though he was castigated,

threatened and encouraged to do so by Sheriff Decker and others. He remained convinced that the man he had seen enter the Rambler station wagon was Lee Harvey Oswald. He was fired from the Sheriff's office on July 4, 1967, and from that day on could never find steady work again. There were numerous attempts on his life, his wife left him, and finally he was alleged to have shot himself to death at his father's house on Luna Road on May 15, 1975.

His manuscript When They Kill A President has many references to our main subject of discussion Buddy Walthers. Many of these allusions are very unflattering, but in the interest of presenting a complete picture of Walthers must at least be mentioned. They may reflect more on Deputy Craig than they do on our hero. Note the vindictive tone of the story -- Craig was a broken, defeated man by this time.

Ala Craig:

The time was approximately 12:40 p.m. I had just turned the Rowlands over to Lummy Lewis when I met E. R. (Buddy) Walthers, a small man with a very arrogant manner. He was, without a doubt, Decker's favorite pupil. He wore dark-rimmed glasses and a small-brimmed hat because effecting them meant that he would resemble Bill Decker. Walthers had worked for the Yellow Cab Company of Dallas before coming to the Sheriff's Office, about a year before I began working there. His termination from the cab company was the result of several shortages of money. He came to the Sheriff's Department as a patrolman but because of his close connection with Justice of the Peace Bill Richburg--one of Decker's closest allies --Buddy soon was promoted to detective. He had absolutely no ability as a law enforcement officer. However, he was fast climbing the ladder of success by lying to Decker and squealing on

his fellow officers.

Walthers' ambition was to become Sheriff of Dallas County and he would do anything or anybody to reach that goal. It was very clear Buddy enjoyed more job security with Decker than anyone else did. Decker carried him for years by breaking a case for him or taking a case which had been broken by another officer and putting Walthers' name on the arrest sheet. Soon after he was promoted to detective he became intimate with such people as W. O. Bankston, the flamboyant Oldsmobile dealer in Dallas who furnished Decker with a new Fire Engine Red Olds every year and who was arrested several times for Driving while Intoxicated but never served any jail time.

Buddy's acquaintances also included several independent oil operators throughout Texas, several anti-Castro Cubans and many underworld characters--especially women! He was frequently crashing parties which were given by wealthy friends of Decker's-- of course while he was *on* duty. He often became drunk and belligerent at these parties and at one point, when asked to leave, he threatened to pull his gun on the host. This information can be verified by Billy Courson, who was Buddy's partner at that time.

Walthers hit the big time when, in 1961, two Federal Narcotics Agents came to Decker's office with charges that Buddy was growing marijuana in the back yard of his home at 2527 Boyd Street in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas. This could be considered conduct unbecoming to a police officer--but not for Buddy! After a secret meeting between the Federal Agents, Decker and Buddy, the matter was dropped and--needless to say--covered up, thus enabling Buddy to continue his career as Decker's Representative of Law and Order in Dallas County.

However, the Dallas Police began receiving complaints that Buddy was

shaking down underworld characters for loot taken in several burglaries and selling the stuff himself. After several reports the Dallas Police began to investigate and, finally, obtained a search warrant for Buddy's home. Their BIG mistake was securing the warrant from Judge Richburg--which was bad enough--but Buddy's wife also worked for Richburg and this made matters worse. Strangely enough, they did not find anything. However, a few weeks later they were a little more careful and made a surprise visit to Buddy's home, where they indeed recovered such things as toasters, clothing and various items--just as their informers had said. It would seem they had him *this time*, wouldn't it? But not so. Buddy explained that he had recovered the merchandise from where it had been hidden and had not had time to make a report on them and turn them in to the Property Room! The Dallas Police didn't buy this story but the pressure was again brought to bear by our Protector, Bill Decker, and the Dallas Police were left out in the cold--no charges filed! They were certainly furious but what could they do? If WE as citizens cannot fight the Establishment, how can the Establishment fight the Establishment?

It was clear in my mind--and if the people with whom I worked COULD talk, I am sure they would agree--that Buddy had a powerful hold on Decker. I base this on the fact that Buddy's popularity with Decker greatly increased after the assassination. Buddy was a chronic liar--he was always telling Decker things he thought were happening in the County which he was checking on. Things which he was *not* doing. He also told Decker that he was in the theater when Oswald was captured and that he, in fact, helped the Dallas Police. This was completely untrue. Buddy never entered the Texas Theater--his partner, Bill Courson, did.

Buddy also told Decker about a family of anti-Castro Cubans living in the Oak Cliff area and said that he was watching them. This part may have been true because we received the same information from the Dallas

Police Intelligence Division. But one day Buddy made a visit to the house in Oak Cliff and when the Police and Sheriff's Deputies went to question them a few days later, they were gone. Did Buddy warn them? After all, he was very, very close to Jack Ruby. In fact, every time Buddy was in trouble with one of Jack Ruby's employees--especially Nancy Perrin Rich--Decker would send Buddy to straighten things out and put Nancy in her place--with the help of Judge Richburg. Touching Jack Ruby was a no-no!

There were many other things which made Buddy suspect as a not-so-law abiding lawman, such as the swimming pool he built in his back yard (on *his* salary?). The concrete was furnished by a local contractor free of charge. Buddy used many pills he carried in the trunk of his unmarked squad car for trading with certain underworld characters--pills for information. I learned from what I consider a reliable source that these pills had been confiscated (although no reports were made nor the pills turned in). Most of those involved in this exchange were women. It would seem that Buddy Walthers could not be terminated from the Sheriff's Department, no matter what.

One incident in 1966 which would have resulted in the firing of any other deputy occurred when Buddy was sent to Nevada to transfer a suspect wanted in Dallas. It seemed Buddy was given a certain amount of travel money which he lost at the gambling table in Las Vegas. Broke and in trouble, Buddy called none other than W. O. Bankston, who wired him enough money to bring his prisoner back to Dallas. Many times I wondered who was REALLY Sheriff but Buddy was about to reach the end of his rope...

CHAPTER THREE

THE CUBAN ELEMENT

After this scathing characterization of our hero, let us get back to events that happened on the evening of November 22nd. That night, as Walthers was back home with his family, he got a call from one of his informants in Oak Cliff with information that related to the assassination. Many think that only the FBI or CIA have informants, but even detectives and deputies need an extensive network of people on the inside, people with knowledge of the identities, actions and plans of criminal groups and individuals. Walthers was no different -- call it a necessary evil or the rules of the game. He had contacts in all walks of life throughout his thirteen years with the Sheriff's Office, and his name was even found in Jack Ruby's address book. It's just a fact of life that you must "deal" with these sorts of individuals. Certain concessions need to be made at times in order to receive the information necessary to do your job; either money, protection from prosecution, anonymity, etc.

However, this night the informant was of a different color. The tip Walthers received came straight from the lips of his mother-in-law! No researcher has been able to uncover this fact before. Her name and address will remain shielded at this time, but it will suffice to know that she lived on a street in Oak Cliff called Harlandale. It seems that she had been noticing the comings-and-goings of a group of Cubans on her block that gathered often for political meetings in the house at 3126 Harlandale.

After notifying her son-in-law the Deputy of their strange activities, which went on late into the night and included some well-known Dallas right-wing personalities among their devotees, Walthers decided to notify the proper authorities the next morning, November 23rd. The report stated,

“Mr. Decker: At about 8 a.m. this morning, while in the presence of Allan Sweatt, I talked to Sorrels, Dallas Secret Service head. I advised him that for the past few months at a house at 3128 Harlandale, some Cubans had been having meetings on the weekends and were possibly connected with the ‘Freedom For Cuba Party’ of which OSWALD was a member.”¹⁸

It was ‘Fair Play For Cuba’ to which Oswald belonged. Freedom For Cuba, or Cuba Libre, was at the opposite end of the political spectrum, and indeed, it happened to be Jack Ruby himself who pointed out this same discrepancy from the back of the room at Oswald’s press conference when Henry Wade’s gaffe identified him as a member of the Free Cuba Committee.

MANUEL OF MYSTERY

Walthers started watching the house for suspicious or criminal actions. He discovered that the house was rented by one Manuel Rodriguez Orcarberro, one of the leaders of a violent anti-Castro Cuban group called Alpha 66. Other participants included members of a group called the DRE, the Student Revolution Directorate, an organization that enjoyed right-



THE HOUSE ON HARLANDALE RENTED BY RODRIGUEZ AND SALAZAR

wing support and CIA subsidies in the form of weapons, money, and training at secret military bases across the South. After the Walthers memo, the Secret Service did a check on Manuel Rodriguez and found him to be documented as a serious enough threat on the President to be placed on the "Protective Research" list. The report described Rodriguez as "... apparently a survivor of the Bay of Pigs episode, was attempting to purchase arms in Dallas for Alpha 66. Rodriguez is also a member of the DRE (the Carlos Bringuere group)." It so happens that Rodriguez and his group were under investigation the very week of the assassination by Frank Ellsworth of the ATF (known as ATTU at the time), and was known to be in the process of buying stolen armaments through a Dallas gun dealer, John Thomas Masen. It seems that Walthers had hit the jackpot again! He had located the headquarters of the Cuban element in the JFK plot. New information has surfaced that brings to light that the DRE representative from Los Angeles, a man named Manuel Salvat, was also in Dallas in October 1963, helping with arms procurement for the coming Cuban invasion.

After a few days of snooping, Walthers' 'informant' gave him some important news that the Deputy put in his follow-up report:

"November 26, 1963. I don't know what action the Secret Service has taken, (We do. None.) but I learned today that sometime between seven days before the President was shot these Cubans moved from this house. My informant stated the Subject OSWALD had been to this house before. Buddy Walthers."

Of course we know that his leads were never followed up. The Secret Service did not contact Walthers' informant or trace down the former occupants of 3126 Harlandale to question them about Oswald or their gun deals, since this might have linked the leftist Oswald with a right-wing Alpha 66 or the DRE. The authorities could not afford to have the investigation turn in that direction. No, they had to keep him as a disillusioned Communist loner. The CIA pretended they couldn't even find such a street name in Dallas; they looked for Harlendale and Hollandale but couldn't quite think to look right next to it in the index for Harlandale. As the brilliant code-breakers they are, they conveniently scramble the letters to suit their purposes. However, the FBI did finally locate 3126 Harlandale, and they revealed in December, 1975, the results of the information in the Dallas file on the Rodriguez-Oswald connection conducted by FBI S.A. Gemberling:

"It was noted from review of Dallas files that the address referred to by Deputy Walthers was erroneously listed as 3128, but the actual address was 3126 Harlandale Street. Review of Dallas file reflects that the original organization known as Alpha-66 held meetings during early 1963 at 3126 Harlandale Street, Dallas, Texas, and a letter furnished to the FBI Dallas by a Mrs. Dorothy Keasler Klein, 4141 Prescott Street, Dallas, Texas, reflects that she had received an unsolicited form letter from that organization on November 19, 1963, asking for donations. The letter from Alpha-66 was on letterhead

stationary, which reflected the above address and was signed by Manuel Rodriguez, General Secretary of Alpha-66.”

The FBI found no evidence, however, that Oswald had ever been to the house.¹⁹

OSWALD SIGHTINGS

Was Walther’s mother-in-law correct when she claimed to have recognized the Caucasian visitor to the Alpha-66 meetings as the by-now-famous Lee Harvey Oswald? There is more evidence that she was right. Researcher Dick Russell conducted an interview in 1976 with Lonnie Hudkins, then the Texas-based reporter who had broken the story related to him by Deputy Allan Sweatt that Oswald was an FBI informant. Hudkins had also checked into the Harlandale issue, and related,

“T. George Harris, the ex-senior editor of Look Magazine and I went all through the Little Cuba district of Dallas, and found people who said Oswald and others had attended a party the Wednesday night before the assassination at the Harlandale house.”

Another Cuban national, Silvia Odio (who became well-known as the recipient of the visit in late September by three men soliciting aid for the Anti-Castro cause, of which one member, called ‘Leon,’ she later recognized as Oswald), told both her ex-best friend and her psychiatrist

that she saw Lee Harvey Oswald several times at gatherings of these radical Cuban refugee groups.²⁰ It's enough to make one wonder just to whose ideology Oswald really pledged allegiance, Marx or Jefferson? These questions were buried in the interest of avoiding any thought of a plot or conspiracy that would lead us to think that our own CIA trainees might have been responsible, or worse, that an FBI infiltrator or agent provocateur had been set up to take the fall in order to mobilize American sentiments against Castro by appearing to be pro-Communist.

A memo from the Miami station to J. Edgar Hoover on November 24th read:

"Speculation on future U.S. Policy re Cuba is currently topic of discussion among exiles. Rumors are now circulating among exile Cubans re possible Government of Cuba involvement in Pres Kennedy's death. Authors of these rumors are not identified but it's clear this is being done primarily in attempt to provoke strong U.S. action against Cuba... "A" reported hearing from "B" whose sister's husband "C" is a member of SNFE (the Second National Front of Escambrey, an offshoot of Alpha 66) that Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo commented 21 Nov 63 that 'Something very big would happen soon that would advance the Cuban cause.'" ²¹

Menoyo, along with Antonio Veciana, Tony Cuesta, and Manuel Rodriguez, was one of the founders of Alpha 66. The hotbed of Cuban refugee activity in Dallas centered around the Harlandale house, and our

man Walthers was right there with the answers. Too bad no one was listening.

ANTI-CASTRO 101

Tracing the identities of Cuban exiles in the U.S. has proven to be a difficult undertaking, especially owing to the fact that some used fictional “war names” and matronyms. Others had names like Gonzalez and Rodriguez that were so common they could disappear into the woodwork. For this reason, government agencies used these Cubans for many of their clandestine operations both inside and outside the U.S., including the Watergate burglary, drug smuggling, and the Iran/Contra weapons transfers. E. Howard Hunt recruited over 100 exiles for a Nixon goon squad in 1971 ostensibly for the war on drugs that were used in reality as Nixon’s own private intelligence network.

CIA-trained and subsidized exile groups led many raids on Castro’s Cuba by boat and plane, infiltrating and sabotaging refineries and shipping. The American Government disavowed any knowledge of or responsibility for these operations, of course, and most of the weapons used were obtained from private sources and dealers, with no traces to the U.S. Armed Forces. Funds were also received from private donors and corporations with Cuban interests or anti-Communist ideals, but millions of dollars were supplied through plausibly deniable CIA paymasters, like David Atlee Phillips and E. Howard Hunt. Many researchers believe that the Cuban exiles are the Rosetta Stone of the JFK Assassination, and it is only

through diligent searching that we will be able to locate and verify the identities of the participants in Kennedy's murder and its aftermath, which included propaganda techniques designed to provoke America into retaliation against Castro. The latter part of the plan was foiled, however, when Johnson turned the investigation over to the FBI with the understanding that any sign of conspiracy was to be quashed, as it would probably lead to nuclear war with Russia and the loss of millions of lives. It is only through comprehending this fact that we are able to see how the assassination plot could be covered up on such a large scale by the government, paralyzed by the fear of finding any Communist complicity.

The anti-Castro Cuban exile community in the U.S. started out very pro-JFK in 1960, but after the ill-conceived April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion organized by the CIA ended in dismal failure, the Cuban exiles were led by their CIA handlers to believe that Kennedy had withdrawn the necessary air support for the operation that resulted in disaster for the invasion force. Kennedy did indeed accept responsibility for this defeat, but immediately reined in the out-of-control CIA who had withheld crucial information from him, resulting in his utter humiliation. Allen Dulles was fired from his post as head of CIA as well as General Charles Cabell, one of the directors of the operation. (It is ironic that Dulles later served on the Warren Commission that covered up the crime, while Cabell was the brother of the Mayor of Dallas Earl Cabell. These men hated Kennedy for his lack of backbone in dealing with Castro, and Dulles should never have been allowed to serve on an impartial panel investigating JFK's death). It is under these circumstances that the anti-Castro community was turned

against the President, and were soon known to be planning ways to kill both Kennedy and Castro for their treachery.

Miami was homebase to thousands of exiles, and it was also here that the CIA centered the largest spy station in the world (with the exception of Langley), known as JM/WAVE, located on the University of Miami's South Campus. It operated under cover of a front corporation called Zenith Technological Enterprises, Inc., with a staff of nearly 600 case officers that handled the supervision of 3,000 contact agents and the exile groups. In November, 1961, Alpha 66 was formed in Miami by CIA agent David Atlee Phillips and former Cuban accountant-turned-militant Antonio Veciana Blanch²² and Major Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo. It quickly became one of the most popular Cuban action groups and enjoyed much support by the CIA. By September, 1962, Alpha 66 had over 300 men scattered throughout the Caribbean. After the Missile Crisis of October 1962, Kennedy ordered all aid to Alpha 66 and the other exile groups to cease as part of his new non-aggression policy. This further infuriated the anti-Castroites, but the CIA continued their training and support secretly, and the raids on Cuba by exiles persisted, counter to the new U.S. agreement. It was during this period that many Cubans left Miami for other southern cities such as New Orleans, Dallas, Abilene, and even left the U.S. for Mexico, Panama, Guatamala, Honduras, and Puerto Rico.

ALPHA IN DALLAS

The Dallas Cuban community settled mostly in Oak Cliff, a residential

suburb south of downtown, and held down menial jobs to make ends meet, as financial support for an invasion of Cuba began to wane. Many worked at Parkland Hospital, made famous by JFK and Oswald, and more were employed by Curtis-Mathes Television in downtown Dallas. Their mission of re-taking Cuba was not forgotten, and bi-weekly meetings were held at various locations to plan their next moves. 3126 Harlandale in Oak Cliff was one such meeting place. It was rented by Jorge Salazar, a chief organizer of Alpha 66 in Dallas, and the aforementioned Manuel Rodriguez Orcarberro, a welder residing at 1208 Hudspeth, who was also the officer in charge of fund-raising and weapon-procurement.

Rodriguez, 35, was a busy man the week before the assassination, as we read in numerous FBI reports from the period after the shooting. He visited a Dr. Miguel L. de Socarraz in Sulphur, Oklahoma, where a small Cuban community lived, on November 17th. Rodriguez was accompanied by Jorge Salazar and Chito Rivero, also associated with Alpha 66, the DRE, and SNFE, or Second National Front of Escambrey in Dallas. The FBI interviewed every Cuban in Sulphur because there was a report after the assassination of someone resembling Oswald having been seen at a gas station there. Dr. de Socarraz explained that perhaps Manolito Rodriguez did look a little like Oswald, but the story ends there, as nothing suspicious was found by the FBI. Perhaps it was only a family outing, because their wives and children accompanied them, but it could have been a fund-raiser. Rodriguez wrote solicitations of funds to various sympathizers (i.e. Dorothy Klein, 11-19-63, see above) in Dallas the week of the assassination, and there were rumors of another Cuban invasion set

for the end of November.

There was another mention of Rodriguez that week, and it had to do with the purchase of guns from a Minuteman gun dealer in Dallas named John Thomas Masen.²³ The ATTU (or ATF) had been staking out Masen and a Capt. George Nonte at Fort Hood in Killeen, where arms and explosives had been disappearing by the truckload for months. The gun-runners had even stolen a tank that has never been located. Two of Masen's goons were arrested on November 18th in downtown Dallas holding stolen weapons from a National Guard Armory in Terrell, the tip coming from an informant that could have been Oswald himself. His identity remained sealed for the trial of the two men, one of whom (Donnell Whitter) had a gun-running relationship with Jack Ruby. This is one more indication that Oswald and Ruby knew each other. Masen was arrested on November 21st for possession of dynamite and promptly related that he was procuring weapons for Manuel Rodriguez and the DRE, who were scheduled to attack Cuba that month. Incidentally, the arresting officer, Frank Ellsworth, saw Oswald at the police station after his capture, and he thought it was John Thomas Masen, who looked identical. This similarity in appearance could account for some of the sightings of Oswald at various rifle ranges at times that would have been impossible for it to have been the real Oswald, and the fact that Masen was a gun dealer made it more likely that witnesses were seeing him instead. Masen worked at a sporting goods store that sold ammunition, and was one of two dealers that dealt in ammo for the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle like Oswald's. Masen's was the only shop that reloaded bullets with the same kind of hunting load used in

the Kennedy shooting.

Other Minutemen-connected right-wingers associated with the case include H.L. Hunt, General Edwin Walker, Colonel Robert Castorr,^{2*} Richard Lauchli, Loran Hall, and a New Orleans anti-Castro contact of Oswald's named Guy Banister, of 544 Camp St., the address stamped on Oswald's Fair Play For Cuba leaflets. All these men were instrumental in organizing, funding, energizing, and training the Cuban exiles. Walthers really stepped into a den of snakes when he discovered the Harlandale address -- it could be that he busted the case wide open. As the newly released Kennedy investigation files become public, we have a chance to find out if he was right. Only time will tell.

OTHER THREATS

Alpha 66/DRE/SNFE also had a branch in Chicago that was active in procuring weapons before the assassination. Alpha's Antonio Veciana was raising funds in Chicago as early as July 4, 1962. An informant named Tom Mosely reported to the FBI in September 1963 that DRE member Homer Echevarria had said he wanted guns for a November invasion of Cuba, but the FBI called off the dogs because Echevarria's father had been an FBI informant himself. Echevarria also told Mosely on November 21, 1963, that "we now have plenty of money -- our new backers are Jews -- as soon as we take care of Kennedy." A Cuban lawyer from Miami named Paulino Sierra moved to Chicago in 1962 and organized a fund-raising network of Alpha 66/ DRE/ 30th of November Movement members that were reported

to have found backing to the tune of \$14 million from Jewish gangsters in Las Vegas that wanted 50% of the gambling concessions in Cuba after Castro was overthrown. But first they had to “take care of Kennedy.” When the Secret Service got wind of the threat on Kennedy’s life, JFK was forced to cancel his appearance in Chicago on November 2, 1963. Other threats by anti-Castro Cubans changed Kennedy’s plans for Miami on November 18th. There is also much speculation that the President was being stalked in Houston on the 19th, and with such right-wing heavyweights as Jean deMenil of Schlumberger Ltd. and the LBJ cronies George and Herman Brown in the Houston area, Kennedy was definitely in enemy territory.²⁵

DOUBLE OR TRIPLE AGENT?

During Oswald’s stay in New Orleans in the summer of 1963, he tried to infiltrate the local DRE chapter which was under the leadership of Carlos Bringuere. First Oswald tried to make a donation, which had just become illegal, arousing Bringuere’s suspicions. He felt like he was being set up by the FBI through Oswald, so he kept him at arm’s length while stalling for time to check Oswald out. It didn’t take long to find out that Oswald was a Marxist provocateur, as he was caught passing out the Fair Play For Cuba leaflets on Canal Street. Bringuere confronted Oswald, and a “fight” ensued, for which Oswald was jailed and fined. Within two months Oswald had left New Orleans and headed back to Dallas, where he again was seen mixing with Cuban exiles at DRE meetings. He had first reappeared in Dallas toward the end of September with two men at the

front door of Silvia Odio²⁶ and her sister Annie, who remembered their names as Angel, Leopoldo, and Leon Oswald. Castro's Cuban intelligence has tentatively identified one of the men, Angel, as Isidro Borja Simo, a DRE leader who may appear in one of the Oswald handbill photos from New Orleans. He closely resembled a man seen standing behind Oswald in a Canal Street shot. This photo needs to be shown to Silvia Odio to see if she can identify this man as Angel. She has been looking ever since JFK's murder for pictures of these men that are forever etched in her mind. Odio mentioned that one of the men at her door looked Mexican -- Isidro Borja was born in Mexico, moved to Cuba in the 50's and became an engineer. After Castro came to power Borja was linked to Salvat's group. A short man, he has been identified by Cuban intelligence standing behind Oswald in one of the pamphlet shots taken in New Orleans. It is also known that Borja was in Mexico City during the years '62-'63, and could have been used to help dupe Oswald into being their patsy. Oswald may have thought that he was penetrating a Castro group that wanted to kill Kennedy. Disinformation campaigns this complex would seem to be the signature of David Atlee Phillips, also in Mexico City at this time, as Western Hemisphere Propaganda Chief. Cuban intelligence has made it known that Borja was working for David Phillips in Mexico, and he was spotted entering Phillips' office there in 1963. He just happens to resemble Silvia Odio's description of one of the men that visited her with "Leon" Oswald. Since it was the DRE/Alpha's propagandists that tried to tie Oswald to Cuba immediately after the assassination, it is possible that Oswald was being set up as the patsy by the exiles, who made Oswald think he was really a double agent for Cuban intelligence. This seems complicated, but

is entirely in keeping with the modus operandi of the time. Oswald was infiltrating the DRE in Dallas, and his presence at a meeting on October 13th was reported by DRE member Edwin Steig. Sarah Castillo and Anna Diaz-Silveira kept a list of those attending the meeting, which was organized by Dean Perkins, and included the infamous General Walker. Oswald also attended a meeting of the National Indignation Committee sponsored by Edwin Walker on October 23rd that was anti-Castro oriented. What makes the matter even more complicated is the fact that Oswald was also reporting the activities of the DRE to the FBI, (read James Hosty), who paid him a monthly stipend as informant S-172. (One of Oswald's favorite TV shows growing up was a spy thriller series called Led Three Lives). His discovery of the DRE's plans to invade Cuba led to the raid and closing of an exile training camp in Louisiana near New Orleans, and his relationship with the FBI helped insure the cover-up by the U.S. Government after the killing. The Dallas DRE chapter didn't trust Oswald after writing the main office in Miami about him and hearing back about his New Orleans escapades with Bringuere. Juan Francisco Blanco-Fernandez was the military head of the DRE in Miami.²⁷ Other student activists that merit further research include: Luis Fernandez Rocha, Carlos Rocha, Ernesto Fernandez Travieso, Juan Rodriguez Jomolca, Paulino Sierra, Evidio Pereira Acosta, Juan Manuel Salvat, Fernando Garcia Chacon, Jose Antonio Lanusa, Fermin de Goicochea Sanchez (George Perrel), Alphonso Tarabouchia, Carlos "Batea" Hernandez, Jose Basulto Leon, and Eduardo Diaz Lanz. On November 22nd in Madrid, Spain, former Cuban journalist Baston Baquero told DRE newsletter "Accion Cubana" editor Rosendo Canto Hernandez that he had received a letter stating that

Kennedy would be killed that day. (See Appendix for a complete list of all anti-Castro Cuban action groups).

CUBAN WEBMASTER

One of the most enigmatic Cuban exiles in the U.S. at that time was Sergio Arcacha Smith, a lesser known but nonetheless important link to the key individuals in the assassination. Arcacha can be tied to Oswald, Guy Banister, David Ferrie, Clay Shaw, Carlos Marcello, and even our subject Buddy Walthers. As head of the Cuban Revolutionary Front in New Orleans in May, 1960, Sergio Arcacha was the go-between for CIA backers such as E. Howard Hunt²⁸ and countless anti-Castro paramilitary troops awaiting their mission, training, food, and money for their families. Arcacha was privy to all military planning and financial matters relating to the exile effort in New Orleans, and he set up the Friends of Democratic Cuba and Crusade to Free Cuba with Banister in early 1961 to channel funds from the CIA and well-to-do private backers for the coming invasion.

In January, 1961, Arcacha was approached by a representative of Carlos Marcello, the head of the Mob in Texas and Louisiana, willing to offer \$200,000 under the contingency that after Castro was overthrown the new government would give Marcello certain gambling concessions as well as Cuban citizenship.²⁹ Arcacha also had contact with a Special Agent of the FBI in New Orleans, Warren DeBrueys, who took interest in all Cuban affairs including Lee Harvey Oswald during his time in New Orleans in the

summer of 1963.³⁰ When Oswald moved back to Dallas, DeBrueys was assigned to follow him there. Sergio Arcacha has been tied to Oswald through Thomas Edward Beckham, Jack Martin, Carlos Quiroga, and David Lewis, and probably met Oswald through Banister and Ferrie.³¹ In September, 1961, four months after the Bay of Pigs debacle, Arcacha took part in the burglary of a Schlumberger Corp. munitions bunker (owned by Jean de Menil of Houston) in Houma, Louisiana with Gordon Novel, Andrew Blackmon, David Ferrie, and Luis Rabel. The bunker was intentionally allowed to be ransacked by the men in order to help the exiles' cause . The House Select Committee on Assassinations noted only briefly this secret operation that Arcacha Smith's group carried out in August 1961:

“Both Ferrie and Banister were implicated in a raid in late 1961 against a munitions depot in Houma, Louisiana, in which various weapons, grenades, and ammunition were stolen. Banister's role may have been limited to storing the materiel which was reportedly seen stacked in Banister's back room by several witnesses. Others who actually participated in the raid, include Andrew Blackmon, a Ferrie associate and former Civil Air Patrol cadet, Sergio Arcacha Smith, adventurer Gordon Novel, and Layton Martens [vol 10, pp 127, 109; Other participants were Novel's fiancée, Marlene Mancuso, and Rancier Ehlinger; the month of August was specified in Garrison's indictment of Novel.”

Guy Banister's employees, Jack Martin and David Lewis, explained in their affidavit that this raid was arranged by Robert Kennedy. Kennedy's motivations were to help France prevent a rebellion on two French

colonial islands in the Caribbean, to give the leftist Cuban exiles more weapons, and to help overthrow the rightist government of Guatemala:

“Gangland Boss Carlos Marcello (whom R.F.K. was so intent upon deporting while Attorney General) linked with the immediate cooperation which Marcello had received from Guatemala's President, General Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes. It is very easy to understand why the entire political administration of Guatemala just had to go! R.F.K. was so angry because he couldn't win. He lost his case against Marcello and in so doing, lost face. General Ydigoras was very friendly to the United States and was a good president of that small, Latin American country, even though it meant no difference to R.F.K. or others -- not one bit! Perhaps via Philby's instructions, these were waiting for just the right moment to seek revenge.

“About this time, a split in France's political structure arose, and that existing build-up reached its peak. The ranks and staff of all French government were divided at that time. There were the Gaullest and the anti-Gaullest factions, all of whom were secretly back-stabbing each other, fighting over the political and territorial severances from the whole government of Metropolitan France proper.

“The French political pot was brewing, especially in the Gulf-Caribbean area. For at that minute, it was in the planning stage to execute a military coup to take over the isles of Guadeloupe and Martinique. These insurgent units were anti-Gaullest militants desiring to institute

separate insurgent governments on the two French islands.

“Right about then, the Schlumberger companies (those in the U.S. and the world over), who were all said to be a part of the Dutch Antilles Schlumberger, Incorporated, located on the isle of St Martin (French Guadeloupe), became involved in this political tangle. This happened through an operation of the anti-Gaullist faction of the DGSS. (the Direction General Service Specialiux, a French counterpart of our CIA), with those anti-Gaullist insurgent activities. Moreover, it should be noted that the secret home offices of all these Schlumberger firms are supposed to be in Paris, France, of all places. This is to say nothing of the fact that those on the upper-echelon plane of command are reported to be venomously anti-Gaullist in their political allegiance.

“It seems that all of these anti-Gaullist factions had by devious means slipped some arms and munitions into the U.S. and stored them in one of the Schlumberger bunkers located in Houma, Louisiana. Of course, these were to be used by certain anti-Gaullist insurgents whose forces planned to take over the Guadeloupe and Martinique possessions of Metropolitan France.

“Philby and company jumped on this one. It was the proper time, the cue on which to move. After all, we couldn't harbor any of De Gaulle's enemies -- there were various big treaty agreements at stake here! Moreover, we just could not upset De Gaulle (France). Due to his erratic nature, he might blow the Alliance completely and no one, especially the

President , would like this a bit.

“Taking immediate action under the masterful direction of Philby, the anti-Castro Cubans of Dr Jose Miro Cardona's FRD (Frente Revolucionario Democratico), commanded in New Orleans by Dr Sergio Arcacha Smith, were promised that they could have these munitions to use at once against Castro. In short, these arms were theirs for the taking. Yes! This would solve matters and protect De Gaulle's interests as well. ...

“We had known those of the FRD unit well. Most of their contacts were through William Guy Banister (former FBI Special Agent in Charge), who along with Grady Clifford Durham (former U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel), operated the Friends of Democratic Cuba and the Voice of Radio Free Cuba through the medium of one Billy B. Little Horse (alias William W. Dalzell, former Defense Department Intelligence Agent and a partner of ours). And these were all supported in liaison by Guy P. Johnson (former U.S. Naval Commander and Office of Naval Intelligence Agent), who functioned with Office of Naval Intelligence Civilian Agent Sunsat, joined by CIA Agent Lloyd Ray, to assist these semi-militants, et cetera, behind the scenes.”

Martin and Lewis noted in their affidavit that Robert Kennedy had established his own secret channel of communication to communicate with Banister, by-passing J. Edgar Hoover and the local FBI Special Agent in Charge .

“This FRD group, through Banister, was additionally serviced by an FBI Special Agent, Regis Kennedy, who we often met during this period at Banister's office. Sometimes, we would run into him several times a day. Banister once told Newbrough and we that Kennedy's daily reports on these activities were forwarded straight to one Assistant FBI Director Mohr, subservient only to John Edgar Hoover in Washington, always by-passing Kennedy's own local Special Agent in Charge (resident agent) for numerous top-security reasons. From here , they were viewed by none other than Philby and RFK, the story goes.

“Inasmuch as we were for many years associated with Banister, we had upon occasion engaged (independently) in some of these activities, cooperating with FRD and Dalzell operations. From time to time, our code names had been "El Gringo" and "Jauquin" during these periods.

“Returning to the subject, RFK allegedly tendered several documents in the form of "Letters-Marques" giving "carte-blanche" status to any and all of those about to participate in this pending pseudo-legal hijacking. These were directed to all concerned to "seize munitions or arms, the property of a foreign government, that are illegally located within the US, which might otherwise be used against nations friendly to the US, using any and all means to do so." They, of course, supposedly bore the signature of none other than RFK himself, because they were issued on Justice Department Attorney General's letterhead stationery.

“Needless to say, as we recall it, everyone was overjoyed by this

prospective arms hijacking. Furthermore, someone had said that either the FBI or CIA were to supply the keys to pull this "job" (robbery), so no locks would be broken.

“Later on that following afternoon, we heard Banister talking over the telephone to who we were told was a Mr M.E. Loy, the South-Eastern Manager of Schlumberger in New Orleans. (Loy at this writing is the President of all Schlumberger incorporations here in the US, whose home office is in Houston, Texas.) This conversation was in regard to the pending Schlumberger operation. Banister seemed to be setting the time and date, like H hour and D date. In short, they of the Schlumberger company knew that we were coming in the fake bakery truck.

“That evening, FBI Agent Kennedy made his daily appearance at Banister's office as usual. It was about this time that the Letters-Marque and the keys showed up. No one ever said that Agent Kennedy brought them, but they did come to light shortly after he had left.

“Anyway, the story goes that it was in the dark of night that the very "chosen people" hijacked those munitions at the Houma Schlumberger bunker, transported, and stored them in their designated location, the storage area adjoining Banister's office. The following day, everyone in the "know" came to look and gloat. Boy, ol' Castro should sure catch hell now!

“Well, at any rate, it appears that after the Houma bunker haul,

Philby and company may have progressed in activity. We say this because later the next evening, apparently some other band of thieves filched those promised arms and munitions from the safety of their hiding place at Banister's office. However, no robbery report was made, nor search launched for them. Banister was ordered to do nothing about this matter and to remain silent, as were the rest of us so instructed.

“Some bastard about this time circulated the rumor (we understand that it was believed by all or most of the Cubans) that Dr Arcacha had either sold or had given away these arms and munitions to the pro-Castro Cubans or others. So he engineered another hijacking of his own. On this, they only found low-yield projectiles looking like small aerial bombs, but with not much explosive power. However, the Cubans thought they were for real and feted Arcacha to a blow-out in one of the local hotels (St Charles) to celebrate the occasion. Although a few days later, they (the Cubans) found out that these were oil-well equipment or exploration low-yield explosive units. With this, the Cubans really believed that they'd been crossed, and Arcacha left town immediately in fear of his life.

“Now, what happened, and where did they go? It seems that there were some others, a bunch of discontented people, who just wanted to take over Guatemala using these weapons far more than we needed them to give the "works" to Castro. Thus, via Philby and company, General Ydigoras went out of office, and Guatemala had a completely new political administration. Somebody fulfilled the vendetta for the Carlos Marcello caper in spades! JFK had gotten his revenge one way or another.

“This left Dr Cardona's Frente under the total command of Arcacha's former assistant, Carlos Quiroga. He claims to be an avid anti-Communist. We believe he protests far too much upon this subject. Hence, we did some checking. Quiroga says he left Cuba just at the time his father was arrested and imprisoned within the Isle of Pines near Havana. Our sources inform us that Quiroga's father may have been assisted into confinement by none other than Quiroga himself, just as he is said to have assisted Arcacha to be removed. He is truly an assistant, however, according to our information. Moreover, it is highly speculative that this subject, Quiroga, may well be as Philby, a double agent. [text rearranged slightly into chronological order; punctuation fixed]”

Banister's secretary Delphine Roberts also indicated to Police Sgt Fenner Sedgebeer that Banister was involved with Latin American Communists who were exporting items to Central America. Sedgebeer's raw notes records Roberts' encounters with this group (Banister file, Assassination Archives, Washington DC; dots are in original; this is a single, continuous excerpt; capitalization corrected; W.G.B. Is obviously Banister):

“ Was introduced to six Cubans who were out to overthrow Castro ... They met with W.G.B. behind closed door ... Later, I saw the same men in an office in the Balter Bldg ... Passed this office going toward Camp Street ... Was about to enter Richard's office (don't recall last name ... he was from Honduras, not a naturalized citizen, I understand) ... He was in export

business with Honduras and Guatemala ... They were surprised to see me, and Richard asked to see me another time.

“Some time later, ran into Richard on street ... He looked like a tramp ... Wanted to speak to me ... told me he had been beaten up by these people connected with the Communist movement ... ‘Now, they were the same people connected with the people who put up the money for him to establish a business here -- export-import. I think that was a business front.’

“I saw Richard two more times ... Same Richard once sold tickets for an airline at Moisant Airport ... Each time, he was in a worse condition and in fear for his life. ...

“Banister connected with people associated with both a conservative element as well as the Communist element ... He told me ‘You rub shoulders with all kinds of characters to get information from both sides.’ He belonged to a world-wide intelligence network.”

This escapade with Ferrie apparently helped lead to the removal of Arcacha Smith from his position as chief of the CRC's New Orleans branch. HSCA noted that:

“In September 1961, the US border patrol received information that Ferrie was attempting to purchase a C-47 airplane for \$30,000 and reportedly had a cache of arms in the New Orleans area.

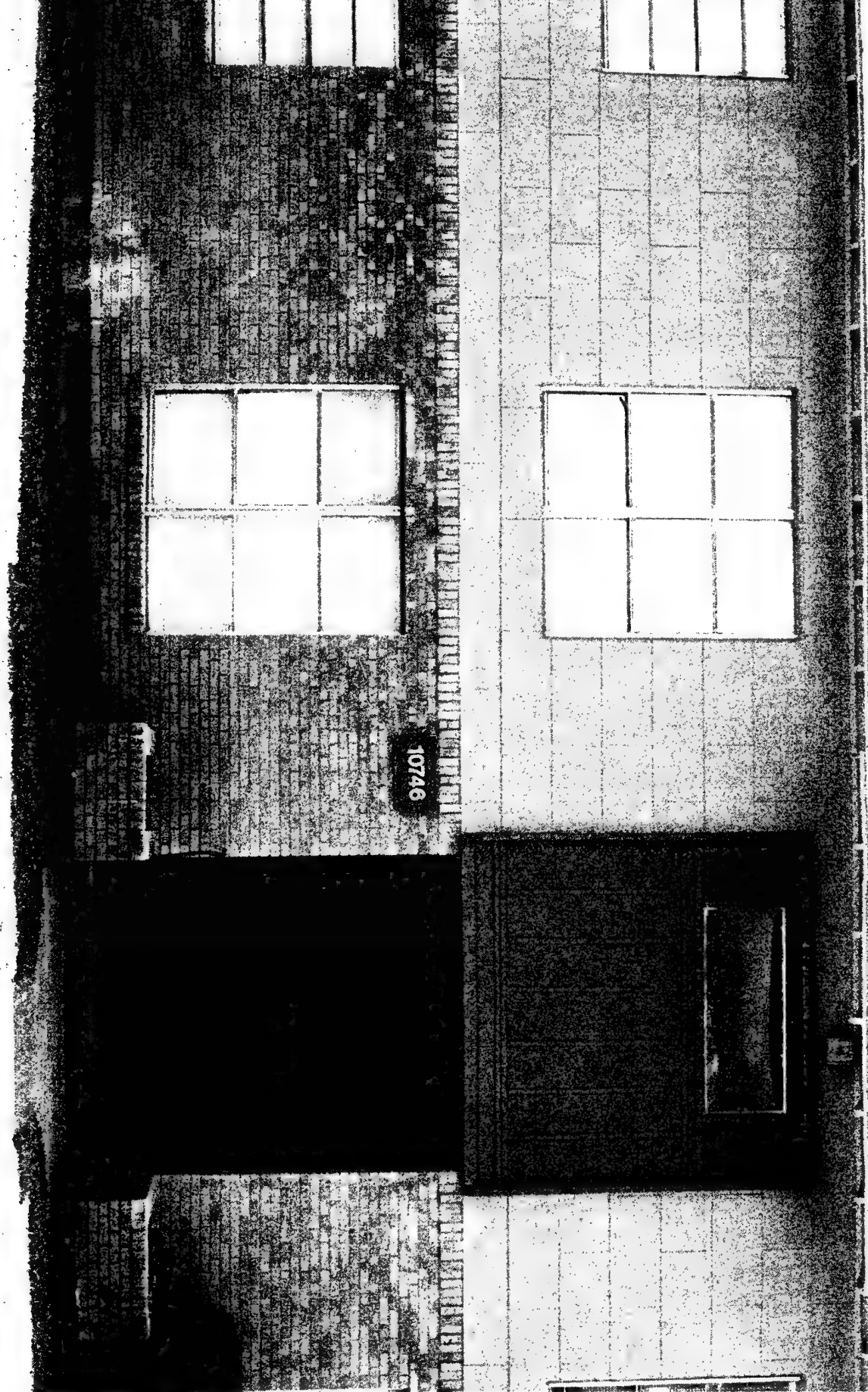
“Lack of funds caused Arcacha Smith to leave town in 1962, his reputation tarnished by his association with Ferrie. He was also accused by several Cuban exiles of misappropriation of funds. .

“When he was relieved of his official position with the CRC in early 1962, Arcacha left New Orleans. Arcacha Smith's replacement, Luis Rabel, assumed the delegate duties in January 1962, but, he told the committee, found it necessary to resign by October of that year because his job entailed extensive traveling. During his short tenure, Rabel said he organized several rallies and brought in prominent Miami speakers to inspire the New Orleans Cuban exile community. Other than going to the Camp Street address to remove office materials left there by Arcacha Smith, Rabel said he had no connection with the building and never saw Oswald in New Orleans. ”

Summers notes in his book Conspiracy that:

“On March 9, 1962, the owner of 544 Camp Street, Sam Newman, wrote to the CRC regarding rent arrears left behind by Arcacha. The letter was addressed personally to Antonio de Varona, the CRC leader who reportedly -- at the initiative of Santos Trafficante -- played a part in the CIA-Mafia plots to murder Castro (copy of letter is in files of William Scott Malone) ”

Arcacha Smith and Rabel were two of the group from whom the CIA had



SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH'S RESIDENCE IN DALLAS ON LAKE GARDENS DR.

confiscated the \$3 million in the Miami airport before the Bay of Pigs invasion. I have no more information to offer about Rabel.

(unquote)

By October, the Revolutionary Front was absorbed by the Cuban Revolutionary Council, whose address was 544 Camp Street, the same address that was stamped on Oswald's Pro-Cuban leaflets and that also housed the offices of Guy Banister. Arcacha continued on as chief fundraiser at Camp Street during the same general time as Oswald's stay in New Orleans, making it very likely that they would have met through Ferrie or Banister. Much of the money from Arcacha's Crusade to Free Cuba was siphoned off for his own personal use and he later had to leave town in disgrace as an embezzler. Brought to Houston in May, 1963, by his benefactor Jean de Menil, Arcacha laid low for awhile at 4023 Turnberry Circle before reappearing in Dallas, taking over the apartment at 10746D Lake Gardens, vacated by Sue Blake, Ruby Carousel Club passholder. Another coincidence?

GYPSY ROSE

Sergio Arcacha Smith has been connected with another mysterious case that has an enormous bearing on the assassination. It involves a former Ruby stripper named Rose Cheramie that was found injured by the side of the road near Eunice, Louisiana, (site of another Cuban exile training camp), on November 20, 1963. On the way to the hospital, she related to State Policeman Lt. Francis Fruge that she had been on her way

to Dallas on a drug run from Miami with two "Latin" men that abused her after she had become drunk at a roadside bar. Her two companions were talking of killing President Kennedy when they got to Dallas. They have been identified by name and photographs, corroborated by the bar owner, as Sergio Arcacha Smith and another Cuban called Osanto.³² Admittedly, Ms. Cheramie was a junkie prone to exaggeration, but the other details of her drug contacts and acquaintance with Ruby all checked out. The remarkable part of her story was that it was told to the officer two days before the assassination, proving that Arcacha had advance knowledge of the Kennedy plot and giving him the possibility of a relationship with Jack Ruby.

Through what we know of Arcacha's contacts and business dealings, it is not a very big stretch to believe he may have had some knowledge of the plot to kill Kennedy in Dallas. This same conclusion was reached by Jim Garrison, New Orleans D.A., busy with the Clay Shaw indictment in 1967, and he had Arcacha arrested and subpoenaed in Dallas by none other than our hero Buddy Walthers on April 3, 1967.³³ Garrison's extradition request was turned down by Texas Governor John Connally, oddly enough the second shooting victim in Dealey Plaza. Connally would only extradite him on the condition that Garrison offer him full immunity, which was unreasonable. Notice, however, that Deputy Walthers had intersected again with a crucial segment of the Kennedy case, keeping his batting average near 1.000 -- Walthers was even subpoenaed himself to testify in the Shaw trial in New Orleans about the evidence of extra bullets in Dealey Plaza.³⁴ This was something he was not looking forward to; he knew what happened to others who had evidence that didn't match up with Warren

Commission conclusions. Walthers was spared this obligation through circumstances that arose shortly before his court date, which we will presently discuss.

FOLLOW THE CRIMSON THREAD

Sergio Arcacha Smith is still alive and available to answer questions of which he undoubtedly has some first-hand knowledge, although he is understandably not enthusiastic about doing so. He will have to confess to all his connections to Marcello and Trafficante, two other gangsters with some precognition of the Kennedy hit. It will take a court order to get information from Arcacha, and he may have to be given full immunity to ever hope of hearing what he has to tell. There is simply not enough proof or witnesses left to indict him. William Gaudet, a CIA agent based in New Orleans that wrote a Latin American intelligence newsletter, was questioned often about Oswald, as he received his Mexican tourist visa at the same time and place as Oswald, and even traveled to Mexico City on the same bus. He maintained consistently that he never met Oswald, but was convinced that Sergio Arcacha Smith knew much more than he was telling. Gaudet was another very well-informed source that believed JFK was killed by an anti-Communist conspiracy. However, the label "anti-Communist" can also be tagged to the Mob (definite capitalists) that were itching to get back to their casinos in Havana, and it can be used to describe White Czarist Russians as well as Cuban exiles and U.S. Military-industrialists, oil men and the United Fruit Company, for example. So that doesn't narrow down the scope of our search very much to know that it

was an anti-Communist plot. It only excludes Communists.

Gordon Novel and E. Howard Hunt of the CIA would also be a good interview if they could tell what they know, because both clearly cavorted with the key players, and are probably only still alive in that they must have some proof of the plot ready to release if either should die prematurely. E. Howard Hunt has gone on record to say that if offered \$14 million he would tell of his part in the JFK plot. Other living participants who might have valuable information are Antonio Veciana, Ronald Augustinovich, Raymond Broshears, Pedro Valeriano Gonzalez, Loran Eugene Hall, Lawrence Howard, Jr., Thomas Edward Beckham, Gerry Patrick Hemming, John Thomas Masen, Silvia Odio, Carlos Quiroga, Manuel Rodriguez Orcarberro, Garrett Trapnell, American intelligence agents, and many others that might know only tidbits of information, that, when put together with other data, would serve to greatly enlighten us. It is painful to offer immunity to known terrorists and criminals, but the American people need the truth about these events more than justice.

CHAPTER FOUR

RUBY. DON'T TAKE YOUR GUN TO TOWN

This story would not be complete without telling of Walthers connection to the only side of the case we haven't yet touched on. That's right, Buddy knew Jack -- Ruby, that is. Walthers name was found in Ruby's address book after he shot Oswald, which is not that strange in and of itself, considering how many law officers Ruby was acquainted with.³⁵ As was mentioned before, Walthers had contacts in all walks of life, and had to develop sources of information from very shadowy and disreputable characters. Ruby remained on good terms with many officers for the simple fact that he needed friends on the inside that could help him in the shady business of maintaining a nightclub among 'tough' competition. For that matter, Rosemary Allen, Sheriff Decker's secretary, was also listed in Ruby's book, as was Clint Lewis, another deputy sheriff, and Travis Hall, a county clerk deputy. Another reason Ruby had so many police friends was that he was a buff, a wanna-be, somebody who liked to be around the action and people that put themselves in danger. Maybe that was a carry-over from his streetwise youth in a rough neighborhood in Chicago. Ruby was in countless fistfights, even in Dallas, and he was renowned for his quick temper that could flare up at a moment's notice, hence his nickname Sparky. He was rumored to have a plate in his head from trying to sneak into an athletic event as a kid and getting whacked with a cop's nightstick. He had numerous gun violations, and sometimes used the butt of his pistol to make a point on some unlucky fellow's face,

but no one could make any charges against Ruby stick because of his friends that would dismiss his naughtiness with a wink and a nod or just look the other way. Buddy Walthers couldn't help but like Jack, though, and remained his friend even after his horrible crime put him on the opposite side of the bars. Walthers and his partner Alvin Maddox continued to visit Ruby in jail and talk with him about old times and such. Ruby wasn't a mean individual, only a volatile one, an unstable and misguided man insecure with the way his life had gone; he wanted to be somebody, and he was worried about what people thought about him, especially the upper crust of Dallas society.

GUNRUNNING TIES

Jack Ruby had another side to his life, a hidden side that most people still don't know about him. He had become involved with a gun-running ring that helped put Castro in power in 1959, and had made preliminary inquiries concerning the possibilities of selling surplus WWII jeeps to Castro that were located in Shreveport.³⁶ He later asked about the release of prisoners from a Cuban prison, one of whom was Mafia boss Santos Trafficante, and had requested a letter of introduction to Castro from a Texas gunrunner named Robert McKeown. When it was discovered that Castro was a Communist and had confiscated all of the wealth of Cuba, including the casinos, Ruby became part of the movement to overthrow Castro. His ties to Cuban exiles and their benefactors are now becoming well-documented. The trade of jeeps to Castro in exchange for the release of Trafficante and others reminds us of later arms-for-hostages deals

that transpired during the Reagan presidency. Another source of information regarding Ruby's gunrunning episodes was Warren Commission witness Nancy Perrin Rich, who related Ruby's association with a right-wing Army colonel and other plotters who were trying to smuggle guns and infiltrators through Mexico to Cuba in order to bring refugees out to freedom in Florida. Her story has Ruby pegged as the bagman for the group, and who brought wads of cash into a motel room meeting, putting everyone at ease about the lack of funds for the operation.

One of the newest revelations concerns an inmate named Elrod who was jailed at the same time as Oswald, who overheard a conversation that tied Ruby to another gunrunning scenario involving weapons disappearing from Texas armories. This report, becoming substantiated through the release of new files under the JFK Act of 1992, also ties Ruby in the week of the assassination to Oswald and John Thomas Masen, mentioned earlier. One theory has it that Oswald was silenced precisely to keep this association from becoming known.

Three other witnesses in Islamorada, Florida, describe an encounter with a "Jack" from Chicago with a trunk full of guns who was involved with Cuban gunrunner and explosives expert James Woodard, who admitted supplying dynamite to exiles, but denied knowing Ruby. However, after Ruby shot Oswald, Woodard disappeared from the face of the earth. Woodard's sister claims he had been to Texas many times and remained secretive about his activities with Ruby.

Another account has Ruby teamed with a mysterious Donald Edward Browder who smuggled arms to Cuba from a Hialeah, Florida airstrip. Browder testified before the House Select Committee in the 70's , and admitted a CIA relationship and numerous ties to George DeMohrenschildt, who was of course Oswald's friend and CIA babysitter. Could this be another link between Ruby, DeMohrenschildt, and Oswald? Many of the files on Browder have not been released on grounds of "national security" issues, and there remain more than 1000 pages of Browder's testimony to the FBI and the HSCA to be brought to light.

An FBI informant designated AT T-1 recalled that Ruby had lived in Daytona, Florida, for a while in the late 1940s. Another FBI informant, designated as AT T-2 (real name, Blaney Mack Johnson), also told the FBI that Ruby was in Florida in the early 1950s and was smuggling weapons and counterfeit money to leftist rebels in Cuba (Exhibit 3063, pp 634-635, 638):

"He stated that in the early 1950s, Jack Ruby held interest in the Colonial Inn, a nightclub and gambling house in Hollandale, Florida. He stated that Jack Ruby, known then as Rubenstein, was active in arranging illegal flights of weapons from Miami to the Castro organization in Cuba. According to T-2, Ruby was reportedly part owner of two planes used for these purposes.

"T-2 further stated that Ruby subsequently left Miami and purchased a substantial share in a Havana gaming house in which one Collis Prio

(phonetic) was principal owner. T-2 stated that Colis Prio was within favor of former Cuban leader Batista, but was instrumental in financing and managing accumulation of arms by pro-Castro forces.

“T-2 stated that one Donald Edward Browder was associated with Ruby in the arms smuggling operation. Browder is reportedly incarcerated in the US Penitentiary, Atlanta, after conviction on a US Customs violation. T-2 also stated that Joe Marrs of Marrs Aircraft, 167th Street, Miami, Florida, allegedly contracted with Ruby to make flights to Havana. T-2 further stated that Leslie Lewis, formerly Chief of Police, Hialeah, Florida, and now possibly a pistol instructor in Dade County, Florida, Sheriff's Office, possessed detailed knowledge of persons involved in flight of weapons to Cuba and had specific knowledge of Ruby's participation. T-2 also named Clifton T. Bowes, Jr, formerly captain of National Airlines, Miami, Florida, as having been acquainted with Rubenstein and his activities.

“He also indicated that the Colonial Club in which Jack Rubenstein had an interest was a place where counterfeit money was handled.”

However, when the FBI interviewed Marrs, Lewis, and Bowes, they all denied they knew Jack Ruby. Furthermore, financial records showed that the Colonial Club had been closed in 1948. Johnson also had trouble identifying photographs of Ruby. However, he still insisted he was correct. He said Browder was called Don, Eddie, and Don Eduardo.

“Edward J. Browder, Jr, also known as John Smith, Earl Brewder, who

has FBI Number 4840823, and presently serving a three year sentence at Federal Correctional Institution, Tallahassee, Florida, was interviewed on April 21, 1964. Browder was sentenced from Federal Court at Miami, Florida, on June 3, 1960, for receiving and concealing stolen Canadian securities.

“Browder advised that he was not acquainted with Jack Leon Ruby, whose picture he had seen in the newspapers many times and that he was never associated with Ruby in the smuggling of arms to Cuba in the early 1950s or any other time. Browder advised that he had never used the name Donald Edward Browder and he did not know any person by that name. Browder advised that he was not acquainted with a Blaney Mack Johnson, Leslie Lewis, or Clifton T. Bowes, Jr, but was aware that several years back, there was a Marrs, possibly Joe Marrs, who operated a repair shop for airplanes in Miami, but he, Browder, was not acquainted with the man.”

However, Browder was lying at least about his name. Joe Marrs told the FBI that he knew Browder and knew him as Donald Edward Browder:

“He had never heard of Jack Ruby. He said he knew Donald Edward Browder as an ex-Royal Canadian Air Force ferry command pilot who came to Miami about 1945. Marrs said Browder spoke of plans to set up an air transport service to South American countries, but to Marrs' knowledge, did not succeed in doing so. Marrs has read of Browder's alleged escapades of smuggling, but has no knowledge of them.”

(It is also worth noting that CIA employees H. Howard Hunt and James McCord both used the alias Don Eduardo when dealing with Cubans. (Jim Hougan, Secret Agenda (New York: Random House, 1984), pg 18)).

David Scheim in his book Contract on America (New York: Kensington, 1988), adds another detail (pg 221):

“In 1958, Ruby wrote a letter to the State Department's Office of Munitions Controls "requesting permission to negotiate the purchase of firearms and ammunition from an Italian firm." And the name "Jack Rubenstein" was listed in a 1959 Army Intelligence report on U.S. arms dealers. Although located by clerks of these two federal agencies in 1963, both documents are today inexplicably missing.”

Another person who was apparently involved in this gun smuggling to Cuba was David Ferrie. Born in 1918, he worked in the late 1940s as a pilot for an oil drilling firm that had jobs in Latin America. In 1951, he became an Eastern Airlines pilot and moved to New Orleans. There, he also became a leader in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), where is reported to have befriended a young Marxist named Lee Harvey Oswald. Ferrie started a secret group within the CAP, called the Omnipotents, which "trained cadets in what to do in the event of a major attack on the United States." The House Select Committee on Assassinations summarized his activities at the end of the 1950s thus:

“Ferrie's job and ownership of an airplane enabled him to travel

frequently around the country with relative ease. He told officials he frequently traveled to Texas and other parts of the South, including Miami. He also visited New York on occasion. The amount of time Ferrie spent in these other cities could not be determined. In August 1959, while in Miami, Ferrie was put under 24-hour surveillance by customs agents who believed he was involved in gun smuggling. Following a brief investigation, including a tapping of his telephone conversations, it was determined that Ferrie was not involved in any illegal activity, but merely planning an outing for his 'scouts.' The investigation was dropped. ”

In the summer and fall of 1958, Donald Edward Browder, the ex-Canadian pilot who was reported to be involved with Ruby since the late 1940s, was arrested for smuggling guns to Castro. Browder was later sentenced to three years in prison for this (Scott Malone's memorandum, dated September 19, 1977 in Ruby file, Assassination Archives, Washington DC):

“Browder was in a US prison serving three years for a conviction of receiving, transporting, and possessing stolen Canadian securities. The securities were stolen from the Brockville Savings and Trust company and two other Canadian financial institutions. While the FBI supplied several reports to the Warren Commission concerning Browder, including his denial about knowing Ruby, they withheld hundreds of reports from Browder's file which illuminated his extensive involvement in gun smuggling to Cuba and the stolen Canadian securities. Both the gun smuggling to Cuba and the stolen Canadian securities were activities

controlled by Norman Rothman. Rothman admits to knowing Browder.

“On July 7, 1961, Browder gave a sworn deposition to the American Surety Company in which he stated that he had obtained the stolen securities he was arrested for (\$136,000) from the 26th of July Movement, Fidel Castro's revolutionary group, in exchange for arms during the summer and fall of 1958. Browder stated that he had obtained the weapons from the International Armament Corporation (InterArmco) in Alexandria, Virginia, starting in late May and early June of 1958. Browder was apparently the purchasing agent for the Rothman gun-running operation to Castro's forces.

“According to a memorandum of a House Un-American Activities Committee investigator, Cubans driving station wagons and small trucks were purchasing automatic weapons from InterArmco at this time with the approval of the CIA. Frank Sturgis has admitted to being involved with this operation at this same time. Efren Pichardo, associate of Browder, has also admitted to being involved in this operation (he drove a station wagon) at the exact same time with Sturgis. Pichardo was working for Browder at the time. Pichardo also confirmed that many of the weapons were hidden in the marshes of Islmorada, Florida, where Ruby has been identified by independent witnesses as "babysitting" a large arms cache...

“While Browder has ample underworld connections, he is not lacking in intelligence connections either. Browder claims to have known the chief of intelligence for the Mexican Air Force, as well as a Canadian Minister

of Defense. His 'rap sheet' reveals that although he had numerous arrests, he spent relatively little time behind bars.

"In prison in Cuba, Wilson says he met an American gangster gambler named Santos who could not return to the USA because there were several indictments outstanding against him. Instead, he preferred to live in relative luxury in a Cuban prison. While Santos was in prison, Wilson says, Santos was visited frequently by an American gangster type named Ruby. Inexplicably, one of Ruby's notebooks had this entry, which Dallas police located on the day Oswald was shot: "October 29, 1963 -- John Wilson -- bond." The FBI checked police and sheriff's records in Dallas to see if a John Wilson had made bond. The FBI also consulted two different private attorneys in Dallas whose names were John Wilson, but who had never had dealings with Ruby. The FBI said it found no reason for the notebook entry."

As noted earlier, Ruby had apparently committed himself to send trucks to Cuba in order to free Trafficante from prison in August 1959, but then said that he never sent any trucks. Would Castro have suffered such a double-cross and still allowed Trafficante to leave Cuba? Did anybody ever supply the trucks? It seems that in accordance with Ruby's negotiations, the trucks were supplied to Castro by Guy Banister.

Ruby was extremely knowledgeable on Cuban matters, and as we know, corrected D.A. Henry Wade at his expose of Oswald evidence when he referred to the alleged assassin's affiliation with the Free Cuba

Committee and Movement. Ruby spoke up from the back of the press conference room (where he was apparently stalking Oswald) and yelled out "Fair Play For Cuba, Henry!" This was a very astute observation for a mere laymen in foreign affairs. Incidentally, when Deputy Walthers gave his testimony to the Warren Commission, he volunteered the information that in the Paine's garage he had found a "big pasteboard barrel and it had a lot of these little leaflets in it, 'Freedom For Cuba' and they were gold color with black printing on them." He earlier had referred to these same leaflets in his own report of his visit to the Paines as "stacks of handbills concerning 'Cuba For Freedom' advertising," (with the title reversed). They are not mentioned in Detective Stovall's report on the same visit and were not even taken into evidence. This discrepancy gives credence to the theory that Oswald could have been tied to or infiltrating Sergio Arcacha Smith's "Crusade to Free Cuba Committee" in New Orleans, and that Wade's repeated slips in referring to the Free Cuba Committee had real substance, but because the handbills tied Oswald to exile groups, they were "changed" to the Fair Play For Cuba group that was being targeted by CIA Station Chief David Atlee Phillips. In this manner Oswald could be painted as a Communist sympathizer, a lone nut, and the book closed on any conspiracy.

We even have a partial confession from Ruby himself in a weak moment, when he told his jailer (who had befriended him) his fears of the government learning of his gunrunning operations. Ruby blurted out, "They're going to find out about Cuba. They're going to find out about the guns, find out about New Orleans, find out about everything." Ruby was

involved in these shady deals from at least early 1959 up until the week before the assassination, as his auto mechanic Donnell Whitter was caught with stolen guns from the Terrell armory with Lawrence Miller, who was spotted in the Dallas jail on November 22nd by John Elrod, spoken of earlier. Elrod's cellmate, who could have been Oswald himself, told him that he knew Miller from a gunrunning deal involving Jack Ruby as paymaster. Oswald might even have been the informant that tipped off the police to their activities. Unfortunately, only Whitter and Miller were arrested, leaving Ruby, John Thomas Masen, and Army insider George Nonte free to continue their operation undeterred, perhaps with some government knowledge, as in the case of the Iran/Contra arms-for-hostages deals of the 80's.

INCARCERATION AND DEATH

After Ruby's conviction in Oswald's murder, he was confined to the Dallas County Jail and was watched very closely by the Dallas authorities, mainly the Sheriff's office. Ruby was extremely paranoid about his conversations being monitored, and on many occasions made reference to eavesdropping devices in the vicinity of his cell and a need for discretion in topics discussed. He did make a few friends, however, and dropped his guard enough to reveal his innermost thoughts regarding the plot behind the events that landed him in his predicament. "I've been used for a purpose," Ruby told the Warren Commission on June 7, 1964, as he begged Earl Warren to take him to Washington where he would be able to talk more candidly. Two of the friends in which he confided were Buddy

Jack Ruby's Letter From Jail

(All grammatical errors are reprinted and transcribed just as they are from the original)

Dear Joe

You have known me a long time, and certainly have judged me as to my character and my behavior when I operated my niteclubs for 18 years in Dallas, and have never been involved in anything illegal in all the years I've spent in Dallas. Of course you know how regretful I am for the embarrassment I've caused the Dallas Police when I lost my head that Sunday morning. Especially since I've had so many Dallas Police as my friends. Well, what I'm going to write now is going to shock you. That I'm being framed for being in on the assassination, that I had been used to silence Oswald.

The reason why I know all of these things, is because of the many tricks and ruses that were played on me during my incarceration here at the county jail. You will find out at a future date that what I am stating here will be true. You must believe me Joe, that the only reason I committed that horrible crime, because of my love for the President and his wife.

Please remember me to Joe Cody, Mike Eberhardt, Blankenship, Carlson, Buddy Mineter, Walter Fannin, Bill Everett, Tommy Tilson, Perry, Capt. Dyson, Cornwall Ganaway, and all the rest that are too many to mention here. Someday Joe, you will find out what President Johnson is! What he had to do with the assination. One thing for certain Joe, he could'nt stand a polygraph test.

Remember Joe, he was the only one who gained by the assination, and the Jews are being used as a scapegoat for his crime. How did Oswald, who never worked a day in his life, suddenly decide to take a job at the most vulnerable spot to commit the crime. He went to work a week or ten days at the book building before even Kennedy knew he himself was coming to Dallas. Kennedy did'nt know he was coming to Dallas until a week before he made the trip. Who up in Washington was so close to the President to know this information and to pass it on to Oswald. Figure that one out. Also that shot he took at Gen. Walker was a fake pretence to make it look as though he was crazy. He could'nt hit Walker at 15 ft. and yet he hit a bull's eye at 200 yds???

Some later date you will find out who was behind all of this by the actions of the President and then you will find out on how he fooled the world. Joe make some phone calls to some Jewish people through the phone books etc. you will find that many have disappeared. Be careful Joe as to how you check on

anything and also what I'm telling you here, and also who you can trust.
Stay away from P. T. Dean, he is in the conspiracy.

I think my family has been done way with. For your own curiosity, try and call these numbers. Call from a phone booth, so they can't trace these calls. If no one answers at these numbers you will know something is wrong.

Eileen Kaminsky
HO-5-3280 Chicago
Marrian Carroll
SHELL DRAKE 3-0984 Chicago
Earl Ruby
353-3070
his cleaning plant
UN. 3-0400 Detroit

Joe, be careful in how you handle all of this. Joe, I know you will think that I'm out of my mind, because this is all too fantastic to believe, but what you got to lose, by just keeping your eyes open and being on the alert. Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction.

Remember me, as you always have known me Joe, I've never changed and have always been what you believed me to be. But if some people for political reasons, and power want to use me as a political scapegoat, than I am helpless to oppose them, because of being behind bars. Their would be no point in me trying to convince you as to my innocence as to a conspiracy, because you could'nt me anyway, but its a terrible feeling one has knowing you had such a great love for your country and your president and then someone can frame you and complete reverse that and make you out as a traitor. It hurts Joe when you know it it'nt true. Try and get the book Texan looks at Lyndon, and you will find out what kind of person he really is.

Notes from The Conspiracy Museum in Dallas

1. This letter has been authenticated and is available for purchase.
Asking price by seller is \$10,000.00
 2. This letter was not dated originally.
-

Walters and his partner Alvin Maddox, Jr., who visited with Ruby often at his cell. He hinted many times to a Mob connection, through his friend Lewis McWillie in Las Vegas, the Carlos Marcello clan in New Orleans, whom he contacted through Nofio Pecora in the month before the assassination, Santos Trafficante in Tampa, whom Ruby visited in a Cuban prison in 1959, and Joseph Civello in Dallas, who controlled all the rackets in the vicinity. Joe Campisi, who owned the Egyptian Lounge and Restaurant on Mockingbird Lane, was considered one of Ruby's three closest friends, and was also the number two Mafia man in Dallas. Ruby spent the evening before the assassination at the Egyptian, and spoke with Campisi, who also happened to be Ruby's first visitor in the Dallas Jail after his crime. The Dallas Police failed to record this important conversation, however. Ruby's financial trouble could have left him vulnerable to Mafia and Dallas Police pressure, and his "insider" status made him handy to perform the service he ultimately rendered, the silencing of Oswald, without fear that he would reveal his manipulators. He could handle a revolver and often carried one when he transported money. Ruby did mention the John Birch Society and General Edwin Walker to Warren; on another occasion he was asked by District Attorney William Alexander "if any underworld connection had anything to do with the shooting of Oswald," to which Ruby replied, "Very good." More cryptic remarks include: "Everything pertaining to what's happening has never come to the surface. The world will never know the true facts of what occurred, my motives." And when asked if it would ever be revealed, Ruby answered, "No, because unfortunately the people who had so much to gain and had such an ulterior motive to put me in the position I'm in will never

let the true facts come aboveboard to the world.” Other remarks worthy of note: “to start my story off, they found some very clever means and ways to trick me,” and later: “I was used to silence Oswald. I walked into a trap the moment I walked down that ramp Sunday morning,” and another: “The old war lords are going to come back. South America is full of these Nazis! ... They will know that is only one kind of people that would do such a thing... That would have to be the Nazis and that is who is in power.... Remember everything and destroy same...The rest depends on you, you can be of some help some way. Be careful...they are after my blood. See if my prediction will be correct.”

In a long, rambling letter smuggled by a friend out of jail just before his death, Ruby alluded to a vast right-wing conspiracy of Nazi fascists who are in power in this country, and who are able to manipulate world events to their advantage by blaming the Jews for the world's ills. He warned that Lyndon Johnson was privy to this plot and that it was explained in a book called A Texan Looks at Lyndon, by J. Everts Haley. At this point, utter paranoia or something even more sinister had gotten to his mind to cause him to rant and rave uncontrollably about Big Brother.

Oddly enough, only three days after winning a retrial for the murder of Oswald, Ruby came down with a cold from which he never recovered. It was discovered to be cancer, and he was dead within the month. At the moment of his death, his friend Buddy Walthers, who referred to Ruby as “an emotional slob,” scooped up the cards and letters on Ruby's bedstand, still smeared with drops of his blood that splattered when an IV had come

DOCTOR'S
VISITING LIST FOR JACK RUBY
IN THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL

RE: JACK RUBY

DOCTOR'S NAME	DATE	TIME IN	TIME OUT
HOLBROOK, John T.	11-25-63	2:30 PM	5:30 PM
PICKARD, J. M.	12-19-63	9:00 AM	9:05 AM
PICKARD, J. M. & DR. MURDOCH	12-20-63	9:10 AM	9:15 AM
(2) DOCTOR'S	12-21-63	10:20 AM	1:33 PM
(2) PSYCHIATRIST'S <i>Manfred</i>	12-21-63	5:05 PM	5:50 PM
SCHAFER, Ray <i>Guttmaacher,</i>	12-29-63	5:30 PM	7:00 PM
SCHAFER, Ray <i>Walker Brambley</i>	12-30-63	8:45 AM	11:30 AM
(1) DOCTOR	12-30-63	1:30 PM	4:10 PM
SCHAFER, Ray	12-30-63	5:45 PM	7:12 PM
SCHAFER, Ray	12-31-63	8:40 AM	10:35 AM
PICKARD & MURDOCH	1-2-64	10:25 AM	10:30 AM
BROMBERG, (DR)	1-20-64	12:10 PM	12:25 PM
(1) DOCTOR	3-3-64	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
WEST (DR)	4-26-64	4:42 PM	5:15 PM
HOLBROOK, John T.	4-29-64	N P EVALUATION (2 HOUR SESSION)	
SMITH, Hubert &			
STUBBLEFIELD, Robert	4-29-64	8:40 AM	9:15 AM
PICKARD, J. M.	4-29-64	10:00 AM	10:15 AM
BEANERS, William Robert	4-29-64	11:20 AM	11:45 AM
HOLBROOK, John T.	5-9-64	N P EVALUATION (2 HOUR SESSION)	
HOLBROOK, John T.	12-20-64	N P EVALUATION (2 HOUR SESSION)	
WEST, L. J. (OKLAHOMA)	1-28-65	10:30 AM	11:35 AM
(1) DOCTOR	3-7-65	8:30 AM	8:35 AM
TUTEUR, Werner (ELGIN, ILLINOIS)	7-13-65	8:25 AM	9:30 AM
TUTEUR, Werner " "	7-14-65	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
TUTEUR, Werner " "	7-15-65	8:25 AM	8:40 AM
WATSON, Andrew	9-17-65	3:15 PM	5:23 PM
WEST, L. J.	9-17-65	3:15 PM	3:50 PM
CALLAHAN, John W.	10-15-65	11:45 AM	12:07 PM
CALLAHAN, John W.	10-29-65	9:43 AM	10:00 AM
CALLAHAN, John W.	2-9-66	9:15 AM	9:30 AM
CALLAHAN, JOHN W.	2-11-66	10:43 AM	10:50 AM
PICKARD, J.M.	12-9-66	10:05 A.M.	10:15 A.M.
DR, SHEPPARD	6-7-66	2:20 P.M.	2:30 P.M.

loose, and put them in a card board box that ended up in Walthers' attic. There they remained for many years until discovered by his wife Dorothy and daughter Cheryl, who brought them to light and allowed them to be read and inspected by this author.

Most of the cards and telegrams were sent to Ruby after the world learned of his cancer and knew he had but a short time to live. Some were written by fine Christian ladies that feared for the fate of his soul and wanted him to make his peace with God. Others were less merciful, and warned Ruby that everyone knew he was part of a plot, and that he had better reveal what he knew while there was still time. A few actually congratulated Ruby on his heroic and patriotic act. Something that immediately caught my attention was a list of doctors and psychiatrists that had examined Ruby since the first day of his incarceration through his last days at Parkland Hospital. Every doctor was listed, the date and time of the visit, and length of time spent with Ruby. This list is included in the Appendix.

Some of the doctors listed had apparently examined Ruby in routine physical check-ups, while others were psychiatrists and psychologists who were hired by Ruby's defense team to try and prove the 'temporary insanity' defense. The doctors who testified at his trial from the list included Drs. Walter Bromberg, Roy Schafer, and Manfred Guttmacher. However, two names jumped from the list as suspicious in that they were not hired by the defense team nor the prosecutors of the case. These men, Dr. Robert Stubblefield and Louis J. "Jolly" West have been associated

with MKULTRA (a CIA mind-control program) and the California Center for the Study of Violent Behavior, known for psychosurgery planning.³⁷ West headed the Neuropsychiatric Institute at UCLA. These facts were made known to me by John Judge, of the Coalition on Political Assassinations in Washington, D.C., and they raise many questions about government manipulation and violations of civil rights while Ruby was incarcerated, not to mention doubts that arise concerning Ruby's manipulation before he was motivated to murder Oswald. Without jumping too far off the deep end into an episode of X-Files, we need to make a cursory examination of the government programs in the 60's that dealt with creating a literal Manchurian Candidate, or hypnotically controlled assassin, and see if there was any possibility that these techniques could have been used to activate Oswald or Ruby.

The first in a series of brain-washing programs was introduced by the Navy in 1947 and dealt with the identification and testing of drugs for use in interrogation and recruitment of agents. It was called Project CHATTER, officially terminated in 1953. CIA Director (and later Warren Commission member) Allen Dulles approved the behavior modification program BLUEBIRD, renamed ARTICHOKE, which used hypnosis and drugs to study offensive interrogation techniques from 1950-1956. The Project MKULTRA came into being in 1953 under Deputy Director of CIA Richard Helms, (pictured), a sinister and secretive man responsible for many abuses of power during the 60's and 70's,



Figure 5

who established a “special funding mechanism of extreme sensitivity.” The various behavior-altering avenues included radiation, electroshock, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, graphology, harassment substances and paramilitary devices and materials, among which LSD was the most widely used. Project MONARCH came along by the early 60’s through the U.S. Army and is still classified as Top Secret for “National Security” reasons. This program stemmed from MKSEARCH subprojects, such as operation SPELLBINDER, which was set up to create “sleeper” assassins, or Manchurian candidates, spoken of earlier, who could be activated upon receiving a key word or phrase while in a post-hypnotic trance.

Some forms of non-ionizing radiation can be broadcast to large populations thereby manipulating their behavior, depending on each individual’s will or susceptibility. Techniques such as psychosurgery, implants, and electronic stimulation of the brain were implemented, whereas more exotic ways of influence were attempted such as radio hypnotic intra-cerebral control and hypnotic dissolution of memory (RHIC-EDOM) and the use of induced “screen memory” and multiple personality disorder (MPD) for cover purposes. Sidney Gottlieb and Dr. Jose Delgado were two of the main pioneers of this research in the early 60’s, Delgado able to stop a raging bull in its tracks by remote radio control. In 1992 the False Memory Syndrome Foundation was born, whose object was to criticize the practice of regression therapy, especially when it uncovers evidence of past traumatic experiences of mind control or other abuse. Dr. Louis West serves on this panel of advisors who may want to cover up

their own work.

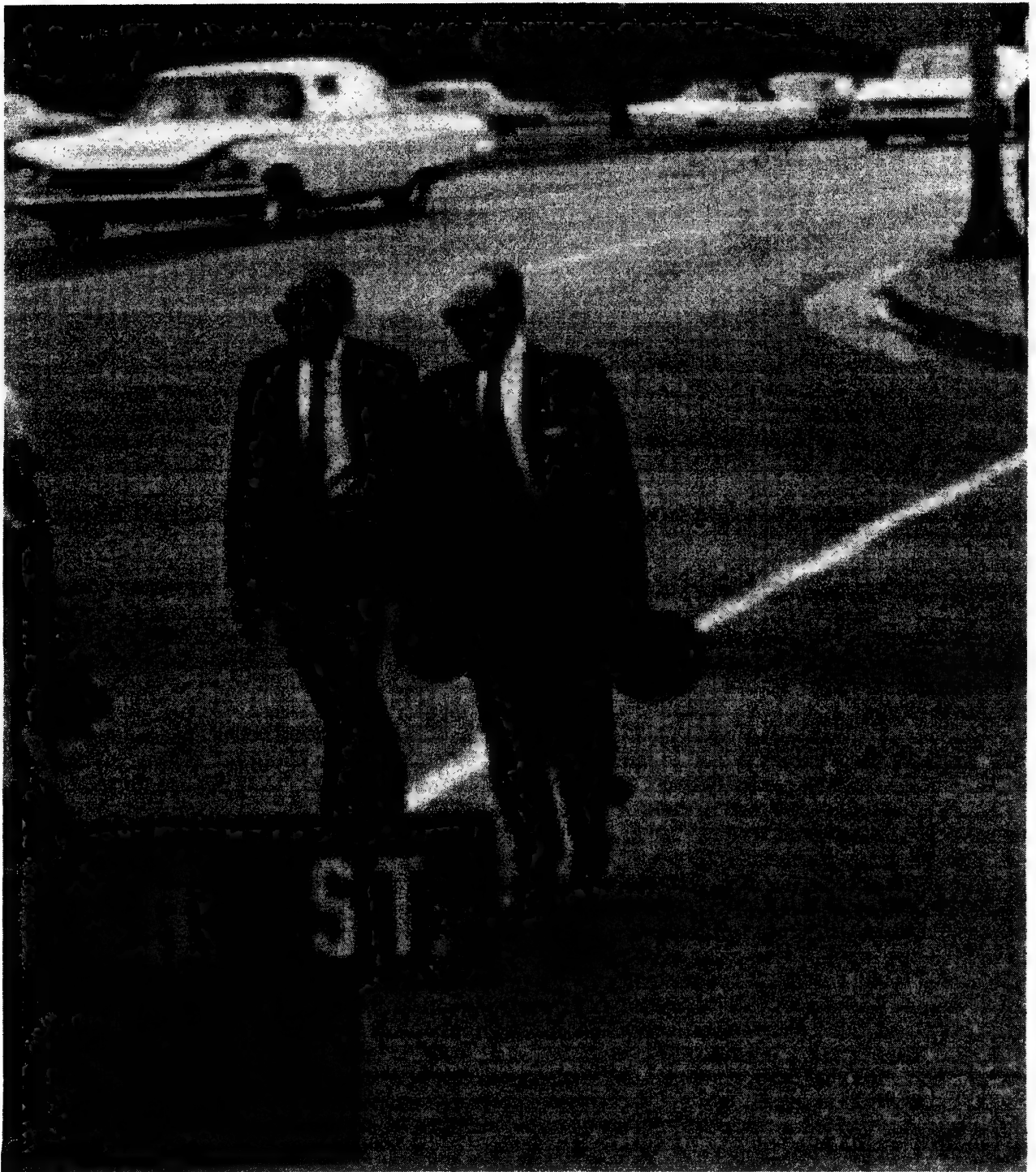
Regression therapy could threaten to reveal techniques the CIA may have developed in the use of hypnosis. George Estabrooks, Chairman of the Department of Psychology at Colgate University, was retained by the War department as the leading authority on hypnosis, and it was his opinion that one in five people are capable of being placed in a trance so deep that they will have no memory of it. They could be hypnotized secretly and given a post-hypnotic suggestion, sometimes even constructing a dual personality. This would create the perfect double agent with an unshakable cover. Unlike "Jolly" West, many of Estabrooks victims have sued the government for many thousands of dollars.

Sound far-fetched? Josef Mengele, infamous Auschwitz 'Angel of Death' who experimented on live subjects in the camps of Nazi Germany, was one of the main innovators and researchers of MONARCH, and was protected from war crimes prosecution by the U.S. Government in order to allow his unprecedented research to continue. Another MONARCH experimenter was Dr. D. Ewen Cameron, former head of the Canadian, American and World Psychiatric Associations. The CIA's Allen Dulles funneled him millions of dollars through his various societies and institutes in Montreal. The CIA and Canadian government settled numerous lawsuits out of court in the early 70's which resulted from some of these exploited and abused subjects. Many of the documents related to MKULTRA were destroyed by CIA Director Richard Helms in 1972, but even what survived is enough to establish the program as the most serious example

of intelligence community abuse on record. Many people have come forward to substantiate this history of inhumane testing on mostly unwitting subjects. Seven volunteers in Kentucky were given LSD for 77 straight days. The fact that Louis J. West is listed as one of the researchers in this sinister project raises many questions with regard to Jack Ruby. If he was studying Ruby, why haven't any of these studies been made known? "Jolly" West is a high-profile member of the UCLA faculty and is much-consulted by the media for his knowledge on cult activity and brain-washing techniques, and he is the main spokesman for the Cult Awareness Network, involved with litigation against the Church of Scientology among others. He was a friend of Aldous Huxley and also served the defense team of Patty Hearst. West needs to be confronted about his MKULTRA and Jack Ruby research, which has only recently come to public knowledge. Stay tuned -- the truth is out there.

It has recently been learned that two CIA field stations, Manila and Atsugi (Japan), have done research on unwitting subjects using LSD. Lee Harvey Oswald was stationed in Atsugi in 1958, and the Office of Naval Intelligence was in contact with him during this period. He also taught himself fluent Russian in his first year in the Marines, which no one has ever done without going to an accelerated language school, common in intelligence circles. Oswald was given clearance to work around the Top Secret U-2 spy plane based in Atsugi and used this knowledge to help in his 'defection' to the Soviet Union. He spent much time away from his Marine squad, spent more money than his pay would allow, and didn't accompany the rest of the platoon to the Phillipines during an exercise. It

seems Oswald was being primed for a very special mission, one that might require talents in resisting torturous interrogation techniques, for example. He proved extremely adept during his questioning by the Dallas Police after the assassination and remained cool under intense pressure. Was this due to certain mind manipulation research and training that was receiving intense scrutiny during this period in the Cold War, in areas where Oswald was stationed? Until our government releases the Oswald files held secret for National Security reasons, we might never know the answer to this and other questions.



Sheriff Bill Decker (on right) with Walthers at the corner of Main and Houston. It is unclear when this picture was taken, but notice the similarity in appearance of the two men.

CHAPTER FIVE

MORE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS?

Buddy Walthers' career in law enforcement began in 1956, when Sheriff Bill Decker took a chance and hired Walthers as a patrolman. It wasn't a problem that the applicant had no high school diploma, because Sheriff Decker had never gotten his either. But there was something special about Walthers that the Department could use -- the ability to think on his feet. Gone were the days that you could get to be Deputy just by being the best fighter in your neighborhood. Sheriff's Department officials check credit ratings, talk to the neighbors, go as far back in one's past as possible. After pestering Decker for months about a job, Walthers finally got his chance, and he made the most of it. He didn't want to go back to driving cabs again.

Three years later, Decker saw in Walthers the makings of a right-hand man, and he was promoted to detective in 1959. It paid to stay in good stead with Decker -- Walthers even started dressing like the Sheriff, including hat, suit and tie, and horn-rimmed glasses. You could barely tell them apart. Some members of the force were passed over to make room for Walthers, and naturally they had mixed emotions about it. We've seen earlier what Deputy Roger Craig thought about the Decker/Walthers relationship. Craig was extremely jealous, and it showed in his synopsis of Walthers. Nothing could be found to substantiate any of Craig's charges against Walthers, and in fact, most contacts called Craig a kook. There

could be many diverse reasons for this, however. Ex-Deputy Jack Faulkner told me that "Roger Craig was an unstable idiot;" but he also said "Buddy Walthers took much credit for little work." Apparently, there was much ill-feeling on the force of 300 officers, and a lot of competition and envy.

The present Sheriff Jim Bowles will not answer questions, because he evidently doesn't want to hear any more about a conspiracy or extra bullet. My letters have received no reply. Maybe Bowles is sensitive about the events of November '63 because no one thought to look in that direction at the time, and they just accepted what they were told by the FBI and other higher-ups that wanted no talk of conspiracy. Another reason Bowles doesn't like to talk about it is that his father also died in Dallas on November 22, 1963. The Sheriff was a Sergeant/Dispatcher at the time for the Dallas Police.

Buddy Walthers' wife Dorothy and daughter Cheryl have told me much about their spouse and father, and what they say rings true about Walthers' supposed crimes spoken of by Craig. They tell me that his accusations have absolutely no basis in fact and were merely the rantings of a broken and bitter man. Walthers never grew pot in his backyard. He did have quite a tobacco habit and grew some of that as an experiment one time. The swimming pool Craig was so jealous of was installed at cost by family members in the pool business, not acquired by illicit means of kickbacks or bribes. Yes, Walthers was very close to W.O. Bankston, who gave some great deals to Walthers for their family car, the same great deals he made for many Dallasites at the time. And as we have stated before, the Deputy had many contacts with "police characters," the kind of

people you wouldn't introduce to your family, but that was a necessary evil of the job description, not a partnership in crime. Wild accusations against men that aren't alive to defend themselves is unfair... unless they killed the President.

A law enforcement officer that helps put criminals in jail makes a lot of enemies through the years. A cop never knows when one of his arrestees is going to come back to exact his revenge. If there is an attempt, it could be by any number of ex-cons that thinks he still has a debt to pay, and there were quite a few such attempts on Walthers' life. His daughter Cheryl remembers at least three as a teen growing up on Boyd Street in Oak Cliff. She recalls one incident in 1957 when her father was getting ready to back out of the driveway to take her to school. He had a habit of checking under the hood before driving off that used to puzzle Cheryl, but on this particular occasion she found out why. Without explanation, the Deputy hurried her back out of the car and into the house and told her to take cover. Then Walthers called the bomb squad -- his precautions had paid off. It was defused before detonation and no suspect was ever apprehended.

The episodes that occurred after the assassination have to be viewed in another light, as they could have been not-so-subtle means of getting a message to Walthers about his testimony of the extra bullets in Dealey Plaza. The next attempt occurred around 1965, when a drive-by sniper took a potshot at Walthers, grazing him in the head. Again, no perpetrator was caught, but the point was well taken. Then again, it could have been

just another disgruntled inmate with a grudge.

The last incident that Cheryl recollects is another large bomb in their front yard in July 1968, and this time it did explode. No one was hurt, but it put everyone on edge for weeks, and again, was someone trying to keep all the ducks in a row? This pressure was really brought to bear when Walthers was subpoenaed to appear in New Orleans at the Clay Shaw trial by Jim Garrison, the only indictment ever to be brought against any man for the death of John Kennedy. Walthers agonized over having to go and be put under oath to reveal what he knew. What was he going to say? He had already fibbed once to the Warren Commission when he denied finding the manhole slug. What if he was indicted for perjury if they found out from someone else the real story? How could he even consider putting his whole family in harm's way by really telling what he knew? It was a no-brainer, but Walthers didn't fancy lying under oath. It was a dread that must have preyed on his mind during those last months before his scheduled appearance in February 1969.

ANOTHER LIFE CUT SHORT

As it turned out, the trip to New Orleans was unnecessary. Deputy Buddy Walthers was killed in a scuffle with an escaped convict in a Dallas motel room on January 10, 1969, a month before testifying in New Orleans. It has been classified by many buffs and researchers as one of the many mysterious deaths associated with the witnesses of the JFK assassination, over 60 of whom died in the first few years after the

deplorable event in Dealey Plaza. Deputy Walthers had been on the force for 13 years, died in Room 13 of the Eastern Hills Motel, and was buried on the 13th of January, 1969. There were many aberrations regarding the testimony in the trial of his convicted killer, James Walter Cherry, and I studied all 3000 pages of the transcript to ascertain if the case was indeed worthy of being classified "mysterious."³⁸ Although there were quite a few curiosities and interesting sidelights involved with the case, at this point in time I do not believe that Walthers' death had anything to do with the JFK assassination. Thousands of officers put their lives on the line daily, and therefore it is not surprising when one is killed in the line of duty while apprehending a dangerous criminal. Cherry had earlier vowed to a friend that he would kill any man attempting to arrest him, so it was nothing personal against Walthers. A promising career and future Sheriff of Dallas County was cut off in a sudden and violent manner.

According to court transcripts, Deputy Al Maddox, Jr. was called at 10:00 A.M. On January 10, 1969, by a Mesquite policeman named Herb Lowe and was given a tip that an escaped convict was at the Eastern Hills Motel in Dallas. Maddox called Walthers, who phoned Sheriff Decker with the report of the informant's tip. Decker okayed a trip by the two deputies over to the motel to check on the report. They first checked in at the motel office and were told that the man in question was in Room 13. Maddox started to take the shotgun with him to give them some extra clout, but Walthers told him, "Do you wanna look like the Keystone Cops? Put that thing away." So they knocked on the door, Walthers standing in

front of Maddox. James Walter Cherry answered the door in his boxer shorts, and the deputies identified themselves as Sheriff's officers who wanted to talk with Cherry. He opened the door wide, as if to invite them in, and it was noted that Cherry had dyed his hair blond. The deputies walked into the room and Cherry presented them with a Georgia driver's license in the name of Eldon Wildman, and said, "I am a salesman at Eagle Lincoln/Mercury. I'm just down here to shack up a little while." Walthers noticed a woman in the bed and recognized her as Twyna Blankenship, the wife of a man that had been sent to prison. He confused her name and said, "Toni, is Richard still in the pen?" She answered in the affirmative, and Cherry then asked if he could put on his pants. Walthers agreed. The suspect's pants were laying on top of the nightstand by the bed, and when he picked them up, Deputy Maddox noticed a pistol on the stand directly under the pants.

As Maddox tells the story, Cherry went for the revolver and Maddox yelled, "Watch the gun, Buddy!" Cherry called out, "You mean this one?" as Walthers grabbed the suspect's hand and yelled, "Take hold of him, Al!" Cherry called out, "Get away from me! Get away from me!" and they all fell on the bed in a struggle for the weapon. Meanwhile Ms. Blankenship began screaming, "Kill 'em. Kill 'em!" A shot was fired and Maddox was wounded in the left hand. Then Cherry kicked Maddox in the stomach, who drew his revolver and fired six times while falling backwards across the bed. Cherry fired once more at Maddox, but the suspect was wounded himself in the chest. One of Maddox's wild shots went through his own foot as he flew through the air, and he heard more gunfire, but couldn't

tell from whom it came. Next Cherry fired almost point blank into Deputy Walthers' chest and turned the gun in the direction of Maddox's face, but the gun misfired and clicked several times. This gave Maddox time to regain a grip on Cherry, and they began struggling, falling a few times directly on Walthers, who had moaned twice and died immediately. At this point Blankenship hit Maddox over the head with a bottle or lamp, and Cherry countered by hitting him with the jammed gun. Maddox was then struck with the phone and a purse by Ms. Blankenship, who tried to open the door three times. Maddox kicked it closed each time, but soon the fugitives shook themselves free and ran outside, entering a blue '69 Chevy. Maddox attempted chase and noted the license plate number of the car, but in his condition could not apprehend the suspects. James Cherry had been shot twice in the leg and once in the chest, but his wounds were not life-threatening. Apparently Walthers had fired three shots, one into the foot of the bed and one in the wall. Fourteen shots had been fired of which thirteen ultimately were found. Photographs of the crime scene showed the room in a complete shambles.

Cherry and Blankenship drove to a neighborhood in southeast Dallas called Pleasant Grove and hid out in a friend's house where they could clean up and get their thoughts together. The friend, Martha Jean Rhodes, herself on probation for forgery and writing bad checks, testified at Cherry's trial as to what happened there. The spent bullet shells were thrown in a hole in her backyard, and Twyna Blankenship changed the plates on the car. Rhodes related that the pair had told her that they had killed a cop and wounded another "in a rumble." After Cherry had cleaned

up a bit and dressed his wounds, the couple drove to the home of Carl Ray Thacker, who had spent time with Cherry and Blankenship 10 days before (New Year's Day), and who also had four prior felony convictions for burglary and narcotics and had served time in the pen. Cherry was lying in the back seat of the car, but raised up and waved, holding his snub-nosed .38 revolver. He then told Thacker that "he pointed and fired the gun point-blank at the deputy, and he knew he was dead." Cherry said he had fired his revolver four or five times and that he knew he had wounded the second officer (Maddox). Thacker's testimony at the trial disclosed that on their New Year's drive, he noticed that Cherry was avoiding "the man" (the police), and this was when Cherry said he would "kill any cop that tried to take him." Thacker also stated in the trial that Cherry had said after the shooting that "the only good thing about all of this was that McCurley was dead." (Cherry had mistaken Walthers for McCurley, another Sheriff's deputy, who ironically was there for the arrest of Cherry). When Thacker said this in the courtroom, Cherry stood up and yelled, "That man's lying! And those prosecutor's know that he's lying!"

As Cherry rested in the back seat in front of Thacker's house, Carl Ray and Twyna took off in Thacker's car to get them some gas, when they saw a police car about a block away who stopped the pair and arrested them, also finding narcotics (cocaine) on Thacker. As other lawmen were called to the Thacker house, Cherry was found and dragged out of the car in handcuffs by Officer McCurley (who Cherry must have thought had come back from the dead), and the pistol was seen in the back seat. Thacker later related that Cherry had told him he planned to have a friend

transport him to Durant, Oklahoma, on the evening of the slaying. All three were arrested.

After the damaging testimonies of Sloan and Thacker, the state brought a surprise witness to the stand: Doyal Smith, Warden of the Georgia State Pen in Eatonton, Georgia, told the jury that James Walter Cherry was tried on November 6, 1963, in Atlanta for robbery and was sentenced to life in prison because of his seven prior felonies from Dallas and one from Nolan County. However, on May 29, 1968, Cherry escaped from the Georgia Pen, aided by two men, and stayed on the lam until spotted at the Eastern Hills Motel seven months later. When Warden Smith finished his testimony, the state rested their case.

Cherry's defense team was not warned of Sloan and Thacker's appearance to testify until the day before they were called to the stand, so they had no time to work up any rebuttal questions as they couldn't locate the witnesses. There were other irregularities involved in that the motion for an independent ballistics expert was granted by the Judge, but the funds were never provided. Funds were never found for a truth serum test for Cherry, though he requested it. (Maddox refused to submit to the test). The defense was also not informed of Warden Smith's testimony, but all motions for a retrial were overruled. A portion of the trial record was lost or misplaced in Bell County after a temporary Change of Venue. Cherry's request to have the bullet from his chest removed for an independent ballistics test was not performed because of "lack of funds." Cherry's team could not obtain the inquest records and interviews with

those concerned to determine cause of death, trajectories, and other accounts of the shooting by motel personnel that did not agree with the shot sequence as described by Maddox. Deputy Harry Weatherford and Dr. Lamont A. Tucker testified that lack of powder burns on Walthers' coat, tie, and shirt meant that the bullet that killed him was fired from more than 24 inches away, thus no point-blank shot. There was also another high-profile murder case (The Michael Paprskar case) one week before Cherry's trial that might have adversely affected the jurors in the Cherry trial. Cherry accused the state's star prosecution witness Carl Ray Thacker of selling dope to his step-daughter, killing her.

The Dallas Police Ballistics expert, Floyd Alexander, testified that the bullet taken from Walthers was not fired by either Smith and Wesson (the deputies' guns), and the bullet taken from Maddox shoe revealed that it was not fired by the Rossi pistol (Cherry's). The ballistics photos and records, requested by the defense to establish who shot whom, were denied them by the Judge.

The independent ballistics tests that were requested by the defense on the bullets taken from Walthers and Maddox were finally done by the Texas Department of Public Safety's Firearms Supervisor Fred Rymer from Austin, and they revealed that "While we were unable to definitely determine that the bullet from body of Walters (sic) was fired from the submitted Rossi revolver (Cherry's), we do find the evidence bullet and test bullets fired from the Rossi revolver to be the same caliber, to possess the same rifling characteristics (R-6) and to exhibit a number of

microscopic markings common to both. We did not have ample time to process this bullet fully and complete our examination. We did not find any particular evidence of any markings or facts which would indicate a different weapon." On May 25, 1970, Cherry was taken to Petersmith Hospital where the bullet lodged in his chest was removed for the purpose of comparing it to the bullet taken from Walthers to see if both matched, thereby proving that they came from Maddox's weapon. Unfortunately, these tests are yet to be performed. (Lack of funds)

Cherry was found guilty of first degree murder with malice, and sentenced to death on June 27, 1970, but the death penalty was deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1972, and his sentence was reduced to life by Governor Preston Smith on September 12, 1972.

On June 14, 1981, Cherry sent a letter to Walthers' wife Dorothy in which he stated in all sincerity and respect that he was sorry for her husband's death and all the pain and sorrow that resulted from it. Cherry didn't deny that he shouldered some responsibility for what happened, but he did take issue with the account of how the deputies located him in the motel room. He couldn't understand how he could have been informed on to the police when he himself didn't even know he was going to stay at that motel. Perhaps Cherry didn't consider the fact that the motel manager could have recognized him and called his friend Herb Lowe with the Mesquite Police, or his companion Twyna Blankenship could have been linked to the tipster by any number of circumstances.

The convicted killer went on in the letter to say that he did not shoot her husband and told his version of the struggle in the motel room. Cherry admitted picking up the pistol on the nightstand and getting in a wrestling match with Walthers, each holding the other's gun hand. (This is tantamount to accepting responsibility for the death, because who picks up a gun when questioned by police without an intent to use it?) He related that Maddox stepped back to get his gun out, but fell backwards on the bed and began shooting, emptying his pistol in one frantic burst of gunfire. Cherry's version has Maddox shooting himself in the foot and the other wild shots hitting Walthers and Cherry.

This scenario is in question because of the testimony of Carl Ray Thacker, who said under oath that Cherry had admitted shooting both deputies to him the day of the crime. Unfortunately, the credibility of Thacker is in doubt because of the drug charges hanging over his head. He could have been coerced into saying most anything, and Cherry called him a liar in open court the day of Thacker's testimony

The letter continues by relating that before Cherry's trial in 1970, the judge granted two motions: one was that a bullet be removed from Cherry's chest by surgery, and the other was for the employment of a ballistics expert not related to law enforcement. Although the doctors at Petersmith Hospital in Fort Worth advised against the surgery because of a 20% fatality rate, Cherry elected to have the operation and a bullet in good condition was removed. Cherry believed that if the bullets removed from himself and Walthers were examined, they would be found to have



JAMES WALTER CHERRY

come from the same gun, Maddox's. Though the motion was granted, he was never provided a ballistics expert.

Cherry ends his letter to Mrs. Walthers by saying that he understands the reasons no one came forward with "the truth." He also understood Maddox's motives for doing what he did, and held no bitterness toward him, relating that Maddox must be carrying a heavy enough burden for failing to accept responsibility for his own actions. This is the most emotional part of the letter, and it ends with an apology to Mrs. Walthers and a denial that he had ever killed another human being in his life.

This information could be put to rest if a ballistics test could be performed today on the bullets taken from Walthers and Cherry. It would not change the results of the tragedy, however, because even if Cherry was exonerated, he could not be paroled, as he succumbed to cancer in prison. The results sought after by Cherry might prove to embarrass Maddox, who has refused to take a truth serum test about the incident. Unless a family member presses for the proposed ballistics tests, it is doubtful that they will be performed.

INTERVIEW WITH AL MADDOX, JR. ON AUGUST 31, 1998 AT TOM THUMB CAFE

Al Maddox: ... I would've aimed for his head, but I didn't wanna see brains fly -- that was the human in me. So I lowered it and shot him in the chest. Buddy was still alive. See, I have to live with that.

Eric Tagg: Yeah, that was a bad day.

AM: Yeah, and we can't do this in no hour and a half, either. (Looking at picture of Sheriff Decker and Walthers together) Now the actual picture of them is much better, of course.

ET: It has the whole street. It's on Houston Street, there. And I just kinda blew this up. I blew it up on the computer, which is the wrong way to do it. It's not as clear as I'd like it to be, but you can see that they look exactly alike -- even holdin' their hat in the same hand.

AM: And I'm fixin' to tell you somethin' else. Cheryl don't know it, her mother don't know it, nobody knows it but me, and I got to lookin' at 'em one day. Decker and Buddy were sittin' at the desk talkin'. Buddy's leanin' over like this, and I'm standin' up there watchin' 'em. And I looked down at Decker's ear, above the ear lobe. Everybody has them little curly-Q's, you know, in their ear, little marks in their ear that you're born with. And I noticed it. And in a few minutes I walked around and I looked at Buddy's -- not on purpose -- and there's the same little knot in that ear. Now don't tell me it ain't... no...

ET: So you really think he's a direct descendant, huh?

AM: Well, everybody else does, you know. Why would I think any different?

ET: That's funny!

AM: I just say it. Everybody else just thinks it. (Both laugh)

ET: You know, Cheryl and me, we're pretty close, and we can say anything,

and there's even, I even printed some of the stuff that Roger Craig said, and Cheryl doesn't like it, but she said, 'you know, that stuff's not true,' and I refuted most of that stuff that Roger Craig had said later in the book. All the money and drugs and that sort of hanky panky. But Cheryl said, you know, 'I know you've got to print those things to make a complete book, and just take it from me that it's not true,' you know, so...

AM: (scanning another part of the manuscript) Jim Bowles doesn't even deserve to be mentioned in the same book with Buddy Walthers. Bowles is a ...

ET: Glad to hear you say that, 'cause he won't even answer a letter from me.

AM: Bowles is sick, he's gettin' senile, you can see it.

ET: (Seeing Maddox check out the Ruby Doctor's List) Now I got this from Buddy. He kept this in his attic, and Cheryl let me look at it and I copied it. It's a list of the doctors that visited Ruby in jail.

AM: Hey, I was there -- in my opinion...

ET: ...and it gives the date here on when all this was, and this toward the end here, but I guess it was '67 when he finally died, January of '67 when he passed away. Now this doctor right here, West. Do you know anything about L.J. West? He's a, his name's Jolly West, and he's at UCLA right now and he's an expert on cult brainwashing, that sort of thing, cult activity, Satanism and all that stuff. And he's always quoted in the news as being an authority on brainwashing. And I was just wondering if you knew...

AM: I've never seen him, not...

ET: I know he's from Oklahoma, and he went out west, and he's at UCLA now, but I'm suspicious of him 'cause that has nothing to do with the trial,

it has nothing to do with the medical exams.

AM: Now these are just doctors?

ET: These are just doctors.

AM: Did they ever tell you that the Campisis could go up there anytime they wanted to?

ET: Joe Campisi was Ruby's first visitor.

AM: Now I booked Ruby for murder. You need to get a picture of that. The card -- when they brought Ruby in, I booked him for murder. That card does exist.

ET: Is that with the white overall?

AM: No, it wasn't his whites then, when he came in...

ET: 'cause that's the picture I know.

AM: ... he was in street clothes. But he, uh, we got a picture of him, and a guy down in Boca Raton, Florida has the original picture, 'cause I sold it to him.

ET: Oh, okay. Hmmm.

AM: They have a museum on Jack Ruby down in Boca Raton and a guy by the name of, uh, I have his address and everything... uh, he's the one that bought the gun, and his name is Anthony Puglisi. (Laughs)

ET: Well, you're still pretty good with names, then, aren't you? I guess that's you're training, huh?

AM: No, I'm not near as good as I used to be.

ET: Really good. (Sees Maddox thumbing through manuscript) In future editions that's gonna be a better quality photo. That's Richard Helms, CIA Director. I've got a chapter in there on...

AM: You've done a lot of work on that...

ET: There's the Craig chapter. Now, it's not real long.

AM: Listen, Craig was always... It's just real difficult... The law enforcement profession itself is a very jealous bunch of people. Jealous of each other; jealous of somethin' that someone has done, and Buddy did it all. And as I say, a lot of 'em's jealous of him.

ET: Yeah, I noticed that. I talked to a guy named Jack Faulkner, do you know Jack...?

AM: He's dead. He's been dead a long time.

ET: I thought it was just a couple of years ago.

AM: Well, it seems like a long time. I dunno. I thought...

ET: But he seemed to have a jealous view of Walthers, and, uh, you know, he said, 'but he claimed to do a lot of things that he never did,' and, uh, I just took that to be a statement from somebody that was envious, you know. And he said Walthers claimed to have a lot of things that he never did.

AM: Did he give you any particular incidents?

ET: No. No, he didn't.

AM: Okay, this guy used to be on television years ago by the name of Toma. The movie's out now. He had a regular afternoon show of Toma, and it was one of the first cops-and-robbers shows.

ET: Hmmm.

AM: And I met this guy Toma in Las Vegas. Got a picture of him somewhere, me and him. And I asked him what was his biggest problem, and he said, well, he said, all of these things did happen, you know, that they made the movies, the television series on. He says, 'People will now come up to me and say, I don't remember that happening.' And he said, 'because you

weren't there,' you understand. So I... (Laughs) ...came back... Buddy didn't listen to me too much. And, uh, after I met this guy Toma. And I said, 'Buddy, now listen, these people come up and tell you, I don't remember you doin' that, tell them, 'cause you weren't there.' Because he did, he got the business, and he said, 'I can't believe you, you little son of a bitches, you weren't there, that's why you don't remember it.'

ET: (laughs) That's good.

AM: So now, Jack Faulkner, I'm real surprised you hadn't got around to me before you ever talked to any of these people.

ET: Well, you know, I called for your number on information and all they gave me was a fax. And, uh, I faxed you a coupla times, now my fax machine is not the best, nd you might have just gotten a blank sheet for all I know, but I think it's the same number that you later gave me, so I thought you didn't want to talk to me. I had faxed you...

AM: That's 'cause I never heard of you 'til you called.

ET: I had faxed you for a year, and, uh, a couple of times and I never heard back from you, but like I said, my fax machine...

AM: (Sees a picture in the manuscript) Who's this?

ET: That's a guy named William Seymour. Now, I've got a better picture than that now...

AM: Who was he?

ET: He was an Oswald look-alike who had to do with the Cuban, uh, situation.

AM: I got better stuff than this, pictures of me and Buddy, bringin' in a guy one time when we arrested him, was in the Cuban deal.

ET: Are you talkin' about Sergio Arcacha Smith?



ELM STREET SEEN FROM ZAPRUDER'S VANTAGE POINT

AM: Huh?

ET: Sergio Arcacha Smith.

AM: Me and Buddy had his ass, yeah.

ET: '67. Now I wanna ask you about that.

AM: They named Buddy, but they said, 'an unidentified deputy...' (looks in book) Beckham.

ET: Now this had to do with the Garrison trial...

AM: Yeah. Yeah.

ET: ... and he subpoenaed Sergio Arcacha Smith...

AM: ... and we went and got that fool, too. And, hey, until somebody brought me the book, I don't even remember makin' the arrest.

ET: You're talkin' about Destiny Betrayed or one of those books like that, I think it has a picture...

AM: That's it.

ET: Yeah.

AM: I think I may have it, or, I say, I give a lot of this stuff away. I had a copy of the original Zapruder film except for those frames where the President was shot, and some little girl one night at a get-together, I showed the bad part, I showed that part, of course I couldn't show, I was tellin' 'em, now this is a film that's missin', and when we got through, some little girl said, 'Mr. Maddox, could I have a copy of that film?' And I said, 'Here, take the film.'

ET: Oh, man. And you never saw it again.

AM: I didn't ask for it.

ET: (laughs)

AM: I still don't know who she was. She's got it, wherever she's at.

ET: Oh, unbelievable. (Sees Maddox checking out a blow-up of Eugene Brading) I'm trying to find out about this guy, because this guy right here is the guy that I blew up right here, and I think it's the same man, right here, he got captured in this picture. He was later identified as Eugene Hale Brading, had a police record. He was here on oil business...

AM: Well...

ET: ... called himself Jim Braden.

AM: Did you ever identify this?

ET: That's James Tague, right there, isn't it?

AM: Who?

ET: James Tague -- it's the guy with the mark on his cheek, got hit with the ricocheted bullet off the curb.

AM: Hey, Buddy was there, now, when that happened...

ET: Oh, yeah.

AM: ... and the guy did not realize that he was bleedin'...

ET: Right,

AM: ... And Buddy... gave him his handkerchief.

ET: I've got some picture of that sequence in there.

AM: Now that happened. I promise you.

ET: Yeah. Tague is a good witness for an extra shot being fired, I believe. That's what necessitated the Miracle Bullet Theory, that had to do all the damage, because they knew one had missed, one blew up Kennedy's head, so if there were only three shots, the other one had to do all the damage to JFK and Connally. (Maddox looks at book cover)

AM: He could have damn well solved the JFK case. Buddy didn't tell me everything, but he told me more than he told anybody else. (Pause) I saw

something over here that had my name on it. I was gonna ask you about...

ET: Well, I wanna take that outa there, 'cause it probably says somethin' like, uh, he didn't wanna be interviewed. You're probably in there in a few places, but of course, the part about the Eastern Hills Motel. I mention your name a lot. (Maddox scans Bibliography)

AM: Harrison Livingston is a lying son of a bitch...

ET: (laughs)

AM: ... from the word go. He's a damn liar from the word go.

ET: He's a hothead. A real hothead.

AM: I am, too. I'd 'a' slapped his head off if I'd 'a' known what he was gonna pull on me.

ET: He's been barred from a lot of conventions and seminars.

AM: He sent a little cop from somewhere (Marco Miranda, BCPD) and the guy got to where he'd come see me and talk to me. Uh, there's another one called, not High Treason, he wrote another one after that. (Killing the Truth, where Maddox is quoted as saying, 'of course there was a conspiracy in the case,' and 'Judge Lew Sterret knew what was coming down long before it happened. He was in the middle between those who were gonna kill Kennedy and those who had to cover it up.')

ET: With Groden?

AM: No, Harrison. Groden's supposed to be in Dallas driving a limo or something. Hey, I wanna go take a ride in that cab. Does he know you?

ET: He doesn't know me.

AM: Well, let's get in the cab and go take a ride with him and see how much... he can make out like he knows me. He don't know shit.

ET: Oh, is that right? He's got that limousine thing that goes through

Dealey Plaza. Tasteless.

AM: Good. I think I'll just get in there one of these days with him.

ET: It's like 20 dollars or something. (Both laugh)

AM: Is it?

ET: No, I don't respect that at all. Like I said, I don't have an agenda -- I'm not here trying to put words in your mouth or do anything like that -- I just want the facts and all the details.

AM: Don't worry, I'll spot it if you are, believe me.

ET: (laughs) Okay. Well, I can start askin' you some questions, then? (gives him the manuscript) You can have this, as far as I'm concerned -- I've got more of those, but I can send you a new updated copy.

AM: (looking at Faulkner's testimony) Well, he told you right.

ET: I'm not sure what you're reading now. Oh, that's the Faulkner stuff.

AM: About me refusing contact. Who said this; 'I can't get his partner Maddox to comment.'?

ET: Well, now, I said that. Like I said, I tried to fax you, and I've since taken that comment outa the book, since you agreed to talk to me. And I'm ashamed that that's in there. I just didn't have a phone number on ya.

AM: I'm Al Maddox. If they'd 'a' looked under Al, they'd 'a' had it.

ET: That's so weird.

AM: I kept getting people saying, 'I tried to fax you.' So I found out why: Alvin Maddox had the fax number. People lookin' under Alvin instead of Al.

ET: Is that your daddy?

AM: No, I'm Al. (Laughs) My daddy was murdered when I was 14. Got robbed, murdered. They just barely missed me. I'll show you a story on that.

ET: I didn't know that. We're gonna have to go down to the library together.

AM: Yup.

ET: All right, let me start askin' you these things, things that we have to know, and you've probably been asked these things a million times, and I apologize, uh...

AM: You don't have to apologize to me, bein' just...

ET: The people wanna know the same stuff, it seems like, ummm... If I could get you to describe Decker's instructions to you guys the day of the assassination. What were your instructions? Did you have any orders that day?

AM: The day the President was assassinated.

ET: You remember you were on Main Street, is that right? Was there a purpose, or did you have instructions to be there, or...

AM: No, I didn't. I was supposed to be at work at eleven, maybe. And,uh, I had my little black bow tie on. (Laughs) 'cause I was workin' on the Book-In desk. It wasn't the Intake Bin, it was the Book-In, it's still Book-In to me. And, uh, I had not quite got there. My wife was with me and I heard some shots. I was runnin' a little bit late and I was comin' up the opposite side on Main. And he was over on Elm, and I saw that flash, maybe a flash of red water, was a thought, and I didn't know what it was at the time, but I know now.

ET: Hmmm.

AM: Three shots, pretty rapid. Pop, pop, pop.

ET: Two weren't bunched together, it was all pretty even to you?

AM: I don't know -- I can't say.

ET: Just three of 'em.

AM: I remember hearing three shots.

ET: Okay.

AM: But I do remember this -- we used to, when we would get off work, we'd walk to out of where our automobiles were, oh, it's a screen where they'd drive in and put the screen down so the prisoner, if they jumped out of the car to run, he was still inside the building. This is where we would all come out. The Book-In or from the jail.

ET: Uh-huh.

AM: And then, jet planes would fly low. And we'd be lookin' in one direction to watch 'em come over the building, and they'd come from the opposite direction. You could not tell from where they were comin' from. Which is what happened that day.

ET: I see. An echo.

AM: Yeah. You'd turn around to be lookin' this-a-way. They'd be real low. And they done it many times. And I never did learn to look in the direction that they was gonna come from. (Laughs)

ET: So it was kinda deceiving.

AM: Well, the shots themselves were very deceiving, yes.

ET: So you didn't know up or down or left or right

AM: Nope.

ET: What did you do afterwards? Did you just stay in Dealey Plaza?

AM: I've got a picture made with the gun, with the rifle itself, and I'm standin' behind LT. Day, and standin' by the side of me is Bill Decker. You can see his hand, and people that know Decker would know it's him. But people ask me, where were you when this happened. I was there. I got a picture that will prove it, standing behind the gun. Remind me to get you one of those today.



Lieutenant Carl Day, chief of the Dallas Police Department's crime scene search section, carries rifle from School Book Depository. — *Dallas Morning News* photograph by Jack Beers.

ET: That would be great. Uh, is that in front of the Depository there?

AM: Yup, you can tell it's the Depository, 'cause it's got all those old markings there. This came out of a book that you cannot find now. And I think there were only 90 of them published, and I can't...

ET: Is that he Judy Bonner, uh...

AM: Judy Bonner.

ET: Yeah, I'm lookin' for that, too.

AM: I've got the name of it, I've got the front sheet, but I found it at Larry Howard's Assassination Center. He got big bucks by getting me to Hollywood to be interviewed by Robert Conrad. I got to spend four days with him, but Howard got paid for it. They just paid my way out there, and we went nationwide television, and I have that film somewhere.

ET: Yeah, and what did it relate to, I mean...

AM: Jack Ruby -- I had the letter Jack Ruby wrote telling that it was a conspiracy.

ET: Is it the same letter, now, as this one? (in the book)

AM: If it was wrote to me, it is.

ET: No, I don't know who it's written to. I think it's written to somebody else, but, uh, well, while I'm lookin' for that, you tell us, uh, do you have any views on any conspiracy involved with any of this stuff, either with Ruby or Oswald? Do you have any idea, or do you have any views at all -- do you think Oswald was the Lone Gunman?

AM: Well, decker told us what to think, and that's what I thought.

ET: Ha-ha.

AM: (laughs) I think that's probably right.

ET: Is this the letter, now? I think this was written to Joe. Now I don't

know who Joe was, but...

AM: Nah, this is it, my friend, and he wrote that to me.

ET: Now I just got this off some internet website somewhere, so...

AM: I'll tell you what I've got. I've got 75 letters written to Jack Ruby, and I just found 'em in my attic. Did Cheryl mention that?

ET: No.

AM: I just found every damn one of 'em.

ET: Is that right?

AM: Just found 'em.

ET: I'd sure like to read 'em. I get a big kick out of that.

AM: This is my letter, really, but it's so screwed around you can't tell it. That's the first thing he says to me. Anthony Puglisi has that. I'll get you his phone number. He may not talk to you. He's probably a multi-millionaire. And he's a pompous ass. He bought that gun, you know.

ET: Oh, that's the same guy, oh yeah. No, I'm not in it like that. I'm not trying to do that thing -- no, I just wanna tell the story. I'm not out for my million dollars or my 80,000 or whatever Larry Howard got for the movie. I'm in this thing basically through Cheryl's dad and I got really hooked on it, started reading everything I could.

AM: (still reading the letter) This is all made up some other direction.

ET: It's trying to go the Nazi route -- that the whole Ruby frame-up was a big Nazi plot to make the Jews look bad.

AM: For God sakes. If it had been anything, anything at all, it was the Mafia showing Robert that they could get to him, too. He was gonna be the next President. They had to have him off the Mafia if any of this stuff happened. Now they had a guy in the Penitentiary that said he was the one behind the

fence and all that kind of stuff.

ET: Oh, yeah. Uh-huh. James Files. That the guy you're talking about?

AM: Don't pay any attention to that. They came down here and showed me a picture of what he looked like then -- no. The guy that was across the street the night before the assassination, that I saw: he tried to say that was him. Nowhere close.

ET: You mean there was a practice run. Is that what you're saying?

AM: Somebody was lookin' that place over the night before. When I went home the night before...

ET: You parked in that parking lot behind the picket fence. The Sheriff's...

AM: No, no I did not -- that's the strange thing about it. My car was parked right there where they tow those cars off. (Elm Street Extension) If you park there after 3:00, they pull your car off. So I come in, and I parked right there on Elm... When we park there on Elm, we wait for all the other shift to go home, then we go find a parking place, behind the School Book Depository.

ET: Uh-huh. I see.

AM: That day, I forgot. They didn't touch my car! I don't know why. Everybody else that had ever parked there and been there in rush hour, the police made 'em pull that car -- it had to be towed. So I'm thinkin' on my way down, I'm gonna have to go to the pound and get my car, you know. There it sat, and I was amazed. I looked across the street and there is a man wearing a 007 coat, you know what that is. That's what we call the type of coat that FBI wore, but deputies couldn't afford it.

ET: I see. Tailored.

AM: Yes, and he had on some kind of big-soled shoes. He was definitely a

lawman, 'cause he looked lawman. He had a bulge under his coat. He had a gun under his coat, and it was chilly. And, uh, usually, whenever I'd get off I would see anybody standing at that bus stop -- it's an Oak Cliff bus stop, it's goin' to Oak Cliff. I'd pull over there and give 'em a ride. The old man used to run the Dallas Hotel, he'd be there. That night he wasn't there. I'd pull on up, I'd pick him up and take him to Oak Cliff, let him out, go right up Zang and would hit the freeway. Anyway, that night I pulled over there to that FBI guy, and I either said, 'Do you want a ride' or 'you goin' to Oak Cliff.' And he could see I was in uniform, and he leaned down just a little bit, and said... No! He didn't want a ride. And this was midnight, the night before the President was assassinated.

ET: At midnight?

AM: Yeah. I think the FBI man just couldn't sleep, you know. Blond man, nice lookin' guy.

ET: Right there in front of the Depository?

AM: Yeah.

ET: Well, that's good stuff -- I hadn't heard that before -- I never knew that.

AM: That was me -- nobody else saw that...

ET: That is strange -- and that couldn't have been Files.

AM: ...and this guy, a guy by the name of Malcolm Summers, the next day, no 25 years later, Malcolm's son married my daughter, and I didn't know that he was the one that run up the hill and the guy told him, better get off -- he run up the grassy knoll...

ET: Right.

AM: ... and the guy had the coat over his arm. 25 years later I said, 'What

did the coat look like?' He said it was a light coat, light tan. 'What did the guy look like?' Well, he had a big nose, blond -- that's the same man.

ET: The guy you saw.

AM: That's the son of a bitch I saw -- 25 years. But he's the one that come down and identified himself as an FBI man, and told Malcolm Summers to get off the lot.

ET: Is that right? Sends chills up my spine. Well, that's a new one on me. That's great, that's great.

AM: me and Summers are the only ones that knows this.

ET: Well now I do. (Laughs) What about Harry Weatherford? Any views about Harry Weatherford?

AM: Views? Okay, Howard was a cowboy. Decker thought he was crazy, 'cause he was... Decker liked people that was rough around the edges. That'd be it. And Buddy and Harry, Decker would send him every year to ride in the Rodeo Parade -- they'd meet somewhere way out in north Texas and bring a herd of cattle into Fort Worth Stockyards. And Harry was part of it. He was a truck driver, but he also used to ride bulls, and Decker liked him. Uh, I liked Harry. If we ever had any words, it wasn't bad enough, 'cause Harry was tough -- Harry could hurt ya, and he would. He and Buddy didn't get along.

ET: Was Harry known as a gunman -- could he shoot a gun?

AM: Well, this guy -- Penn Jones one time made the statement that me and Harry Weatherford was layin' on top of the damn courthouse. I wouldn't have got that close to him... as part of the rifle... That Penn Jones -- I don't know whether he's livin' now or not.

ET: No, he passed away last year.

AM: Did you ever meet him?

ET: Yeah, I met him at one of the annual Dealey Plaza ceremonies. I'd helped him down into the north manhole on Elm Street. He had a theory that a gunman fired from the sewer there.

AM: There's no way that somebody down there wouldn't be seen by somebody -- there were people lined up all the way down Elm.

ET: Actually. I have seen only one picture of that sewer opening, and it was taken right after the shots, the Bell film, I believe, and there were no people in the area, just a motorcycle. The sewer was blocked by a car or something in every other picture I've ever seen. Back to Weatherford, do you know where he was during the shots?

AM: Yeah, I saw Harry. He was in the building, either right before or right after. Decker told everybody that wasn't doin' something to go out in the front and line up on the street.

ET: Just out of general respect, you mean?

AM: Yeah. Now some of us did, some of us didn't. I didn't, because I wasn't there yet, that's why I didn't. Jim Ramsey was, have you talked to Jim Ramsey?

ET: I haven't talked to him.

AM: He was mad 'cause Decker made us stand out there, and I'm told by other people that Ramsey said, 'I hope somebody shoots the son of a bitch.'

ET: I had heard that somebody said that.

AM: Yeah -- it happened.

ET: I bet he was sorry he said that later.

AM: Not really -- you had to know Jim.

ET: Is that right?

AM: He wouldn't 'a' said it again, but I bet he wasn't sorry.

ET: Wow! And Decker was definitely anti-conspiracy, is that right? He didn't wanna hear anything about a plot. Did he order you guys to... did he give you one story you had to stick to?

AM: He sent a bunch of guys to... I guess to Washington. Jack Faulkner would've been one of 'em. And J.L. Oxford. Have you talked to him?

ET: I've gotten his name from Faulkner. He told me he worked down at King Edward's Pawn Shop on East Grand. Is he down there sometimes?

AM: Oxford's a deputy for years -- he got his 30 in and he's retired...

ET: Well Faulkner said some of 'em still hang out down at the Pawn Shop. He said if you wanna meet 'em, go down there.

AM: J. L.'s a good man. Course, Jack Faulkner was, too.

ET: That's good to hear.

Like you said, there is a little rivalry between you guys, not all of you, but many, that I could hear comin' out, you know: 'He didn't do that,' or 'He wasn't there' or that kinda stuff.

AM: How do you know? You know, I don't know who was there. Whenever somebody asks me where was I, I got a picture, I can show you where I was. I was standing behind that gun after they got it down on the street. I didn't find it -- Have you talked to Boone? He found the gun.

ET: Uh-huh, right.

AM: Where is Boone?

ET: I have no idea. I haven't spoken with him. Now I'm not doing a book on the assassination per se__ I'm doing a book on Walthers and his relation to the assassination; that's a little different. And you're the crowning icing on the cake of this thing. It wouldn't be complete without you.

AM: Took you awhile to spot that.

ET: I know.

AM: Now I don't remember these things like yesterday.

ET: Maybe you're just as liable to remember things that you hadn't thought about before.

AM: Well, you're triggerin' things.

ET: I'm joggin' ya, good. (Pause) Did Walthers find a bullet by the manhole cover?

AM: (Pause) I think he did. I heard him say, when they's comin' down on him pretty hard -- uh, what was the name of that attorney in New Orleans that was bringin' all this stuff up, Garrison? Yeah, they was always wantin' that bullet. And Buddy went on television one time, with a fellow by the name of Murphy Martin...

ET: Uh-huh, yeah, I remember him.

AM: ...and Buddy told them there was no bullet. (Laughs)

ET: Now did Decker tell him to say that, or...

AM: I don't know, I don't know. Decker would always... That day that we discussed that, I was sittin' there, I didn't discuss it, I listened, and Buddy told him, 'They wanna talk to me, it's a nationwide broadcast, but Murphy Martin is asking the question about that bullet.' Then Decker says, 'Son, you go down there and tell it like it is!' 'If you don't go down there and lie about it, then just don't go.' And I was real anxious myself, to see what he said.

ET: Huh!

AM: And that day Buddy didn't wear his hat, the day they were makin' that interview; and Decker told him, he says, 'Why don't you just take your

pants off. You won't be near as obvious as you are without your hat!' Buddy said, 'He don't like it when I don't have my hat.'

ET: (laughs) But he went ahead and said he didn't find a bullet, which is what he told the Warren Commission as well. He said there was no bullet.

AM: Did he? Now, I never read that. But he did give the guy the handkerchief that had the blood runnin' down the side of his face and didn't know it.

ET: Yeah, that all happened about 10 minutes after the assassination. There's pictures of that -- they're all lined up by the manhole cover. Well, here's some of them.

AM: There's Buddy. Okay, look here. What was that senator's name that was gonna reopen the case?

ET: Schweiker?

AM: Yeah, the senator called one day, said, 'Well I'd just like to know what Walthers picked up.' Real snotty. 'What was he pickin' up if it wasn't a bullet?' And I said, 'It was a dog turd.' Haven't heard from him since.

ET: (laughs) These are horrible pictures, but uh, now you see, this is the guy that nobody knows who that is -- you recognize him?

AM: This could have very well been the man with that coat on that night, and then he told Summers...

ET: He did have a coat on his arm -- you can see it right there.

AM: Has he? Well, that's the one that told Malcolm Summers...

ET: 'Get off the hill, cause I'm FBI.'

AM: I think he badged him.

ET: He's holdin' a coat with his right arm, right there. You can see it.

AM: Man, he'd had it since the night before. (Laughs)

ET: Well, that is... so we don't know who that is, but that's the guy with the big-soled shoes. There's another picture of him right there.

AM: There's a big time reward if we can find out who that is. Have you ever been up to that museum, now?

ET: Not recently, must be ten years ago.

AM: I have never been up there.

ET: I can't afford it.

AM: What are you doin' now?

ET: I'm still singin' commercials and I'm worship pastor at my church.

AM: Where is that?

ET: At Richland Bible Fellowship. I just got the job three weeks ago.

AM: Excuse me for cussing. I'm a very poor conversationalist.

ET: I'm a musician. (Laughs) I played nightclubs for years. I've been around pretty much everything -- drugs and alcohol most of my life, so swearing doesn't bother me in the least. There's the hand of Walthers right there -- he's pointing to that mark on the curb. That's the mark from the bullet that went up and nicked that guy in the cheek. James Tague.

AM: Same name as yours?

ET: Well, no, his is T-A-G-U-E, and mine is T-A-G-G. But, there's Buddy with his cigarette.

AM: (pointing back to the FBI man again) Hey, I worked with this guy. I know he was FBI.

ET: Is that right? It's just not Barrett, right?

AM: No, it ain't Barrett.

ET: it's funny we can't find a name on this guy. Even Gemberling and Shanklin aren't saying who that is. He's pickin' up something. I know that.

AM: Just say hello to him, Westphal -- Detective.

ET: Now this part's about this car turning the corner here, this Rambler station wagon. And Roger Craig is standing down here somewhere. But he saw a Rambler come down the street, this is the story that he told...

AM: You know what, he hung with that. Did you read that thing that Roger wrote? Hey, he didn't have anything ugly to say about me, except I's like a nutty professor, which is kind of a compliment, bein' associated with a professor, whether I'm nutty or not, you know?

ET: (laugh)

AM: I was the only one in that Sheriff's Office that had a college degree. Is that right?

AM: At the time, because there's one guy that had an English Degree, but we didn't count that. Mine was Master of Business, but my daddy had been murdered and I thought that I's trying to save the world by bein' a lawman.

ET: Hmmm. Somebody has to make a book about you. I'd like to make one about you, too.

AM: well, I've got enough to do all that, too.

ET: Well let me keep goin' here, so I don't take up your whole afternoon.

AM: We may not finish today.

ET: gosh, I sure would like to. Let's get back to Buddy. I know how you feel about Roger Craig, and uh...

AM: Roger Craig was a little man that wanted to be something, but he had nothing to go on.

ET: It caught up with him after awhile, sure did.

AM: Yeah, after he had that operation, he had a...

ET: He got shot at, didn't he?

AM: Maybe they should'a shot him. He didn't have enough sense to do what Decker told him to do. For one thing, Decker said, 'Put it down and shut up about it.' Well, he didn't, so Decker fired him. But he showed me, he had part of his esophagus removed, ulcer. But after that operation, he was worse than before. UP 'til then, I thought Roger was a nice lookin' guy. But everybody wanted to do like Buddy, and there wasn't but one Buddy.

ET: That's what I wanna hear -- can you just give a couple of anecdotes real fast, anything you can think of that you and Buddy did, or anything in his career as a deputy that...

AM: Oh, yeah. I've got stuff that people wouldn't believe about Buddy. But they have to come to me.

ET: I know, I'm just trying to get lucky here, just get a good one. How 'bout when you arrested this Cuban guy, this Sergio Smith?

AM: I don't remember the rest.

ET: Garrison had subpoenaed this guy to appear, 'cause he was from the New Orleans crowd that he was trying to tie Oswald to.

AM: You know what? I'll tell you who can verify this, and he's in charge of Channel 8 right now. His son is on channel 8 every night, Brett Shipp.

ET: yeah, I know who you're talkin' about.

AM: And his daddy Bert used to work with me and Buddy. And we went aboard a plane one night, and old Bert Shipp and us went aboard a plane one night, this guy, they wanted us to get pictures of him trying to get on the plane. And we follered that sucker right up the gangway with those cameras, didn't tell the pilot or anybody else, and when we left, they deplaned. They followed us, 'who is that,' and nobody knew who we were,

so Shipp'll tell you. And they deplaned everybody on that plane, 'til they found out who we were, and we were gone by then. That was a good one -- Yeah, get Bert to tell you about that one.

ET: And who did that have to do with?

AM: Had to do with that New Orleans case. Whether it's that Sergio Arcacha Smith or not, I think it was. He was leaving the country.

ET: Real handsome guy with a thin moustache?

AM: I don't remember.

ET: I've got a picture of him here.

AM: But you know that pictures made in the daylight -- we got him at night.

ET: Right.

AM: Who is that?

ET: That's David Ferrie -- friend of Oswald's in New Orleans. Yeah, this is Smith right here. Can't tell too much. He's Cuban. Looks like he's about 40 years old. But I've seen that picture you're talkin' about, of the arrest, the next day. Another thing -- do you think most folks at the Sheriff's office were Democrats or Republicans?

AM: We was all Democrats. By then the Republicans had not started sneakin' in and infiltrating and finally it wound up with it after Decker left, nobody had control, and Sarah T. Hughes started actin' crazy. Decker could control that bitch.

ET: Okay -- did you know Jack Ruby before his crime?

AM: Oh. Yeah.

ET: You knew him for years.

AM: The first night I was in Dallas County, I came up, Coke Stephenson

transferred me from Austin. I was a Liquor Control Agent. And when I got to Dallas, some of the guys at the State Liquor Control Board says we're gonna show you some of the Dallas joints. And they took me out, and the first person I met when I came to Dallas was Jack Ruby.

ET: Is that right? So was that an immediate friend?

AM: Well, hell yeah, he had all the ... They say you don't pay for your eats, you don't pay for your... anything.

ET: Yeah.

AM: Jack is the bank. Everybody asks me, 'Would you have let Jack Ruby in the basement?' Yeah -- I'd 'a' got him by the hand and said, 'Now, Jack, don't you fall goin' down that ramp.'

ET: (laughs)

AM: 'Don't you hurt yourself.'

ET: The first person you met -- funny. So Walthers knew him for years, too, is that right?

AM: Yeah, because... I don't wanna forget this thought that I had here... Oh yeah... It was how did I wind up with Buddy.

ET: Hmmm.

AM: See, I was a jailer. You didn't make jailer to detective. They didn't move you outa that jail and make a detective out of you. He did me -- because the best thing that ever happened... Here's a good story on Buddy. Buddy would always come in -- I'd be on the desk in the middle of the night. Here would come this young man with his snout-billed hat, lookin' like Decker. I always thought he was Decker's son. And, uh, he'd come back there and he'd say, 'Pull me so-and-so's file,' and Identification would get his file. Well, see, I's a book-in, but I was watchin' all this. He'd get it,

and he'd look at it, and he'd make little notes, like scribblin' notes. He wasn't writin'... He'd never forget. And then he'd leave. I'd look at the picture in the file, you know. Many times I'd take that file and I'd look at it, and I'd get a picture of each guy in my mind. And, my friend, usually, not every time, but usually, before the day was over, before the night was over, before I went home, he'd have that son of a bitch.

ET: Is that right?

AM: Come draggin' in there kickin' and screamin'-- you'd never heard such a thing in your life.

ET: Wow! So that's one of the reasons he was Decker's favorite son, I guess, huh?

AM: He was that. Now anybody that tells you... Jack Faulkner lived across the driveway from Decker, but Decker felt obligated... And Jack was a nice guy -- he earned his pay. And he was tryin'. But he never could get in as good standing with Decker like Buddy was. Decker thought Buddy was funny. Decker jumped off at us one time -- he said somebody saw us down in Seagoville in a squad car or a plain car -- we's huntin' -- dove season. Killin' doves. Good huntin' with squad cars. Somebody, Tom Barker snitched us off. 'Yeah, Maddox and Buddy're down in Seagoville huntin' in squad car.' 'They's off-duty, and they's down there with a squad car. Ridin' in a squad car and huntin' doves.' So Decker called us in when we came to work. The reason he thought Buddy was funny, see, he called us in and said, uh, 'You two son of a bitches usin' my car to hunt doves in?' I was not to lie to Decker, no sir. But Buddy said, 'We damn sure weren't.' Then Buddy says, 'Come on, Al, let's get outa here.' Decker says, 'Where you goin'?' He says, 'I gotta go wash the car -- it's got dove shit all over it.' (Both laugh) And

we just walked out, and Decker's just sittin' there with a scowl on his face.

ET: That's great.

AM: So he straightened up his lie. But that was his way of straightening it up, see. 'I've lied to our mentor,' and he had to straighten it up, but now this is the thing that I remember about Buddy, but I can't pull 'em all up.

ET: That's neat. That's great. Did you guys visit Ruby in jail? I mean, uh...

AM: Oh, yeah.

ET: Together, or was it just separately, or whenever you had a chance?

AM: We visited Ruby a bunch in jail. We visited... We was there when he died.

ET: I know. I know that.

AM: I had the chain that's on his foot when he died. And we took the chain off his foot. Has anybody else told you about this?

ET: No.

AM: Guess who has the chain -- Puglisi.

ET: Oh. That's another item, huh?

AM: A six-foot chain, but you couldn't saw through this one. This was a big chain. (Laughs) Not one of them little chains.

ET: Well, I hope you got a good penny for that.

AM: I did.

ET: Good.

AM: I got a good penny for everything he got. He got six items. I had the chain, I had the original photograph of all those other pictures of Ruby, they're tops.

ET: The book-in photograph.

AM: The book-in photograph.

ET: Uh-huh.

AM: ID -- Identification.

ET: Yeah.

AM: I had several pictures that Ruby drew. And then he had that letter to me that I read nationwide with Robert Conrad.

ET: Ah.

AM: The emcee. You talk about publicity -- People I hadn't seen in many years callin' me. He, uh... I'm tryin' to think. I had six items.

ET: Little mementos from Ruby.

AM: That Ruby gave me.

ET: Now Walthers had gotten a bunch of Ruby's mail, after Ruby died, from the hospital. And that's where I got that doctors list, that was one of the items. Mostly cards people had sent him...

AM: People's Christmas cards.

ET: ... Tryin' to save his soul, and, uh...

AM: I have two envelopes, in Christmas of '66, people sent him, tellin' him how to get rid of that stuff. Now I've got that. I did not know I had it, and I had put it in my attic. Why, I don't know.

ET: Huh. Well, sometime I sure would like to read that. AM: That was probably the last thing that we brought outa there.

ET: Hmmm. So you know where they are now?

AM: Yeah, I know where they are.

ET: Good deal.

AM: Uh... we called Decker. I don't know who called him, me or Buddy. We told him, 'Jack just died.' And we took the chain off his foot. And he said,

'You did?' Must have been Buddy. I remember that perplexed look on his face. Sheriff was thinkin'. Decker never told us why he did things. He said, 'Put that chain back on his ankle.' His family's everywhere. I went back up there and I put the chain back.

ET: Uh-huh.

AM: A few years later, seems like, sometime -- I never questioned Decker, but ... 'Why would you want that chain back on his foot?' He wasn't goin' anywhere -- he was dead.

ET: Really!

AM: He had information that somebody was gonna take his body.

ET: Oh. Ah-hah!

AM: See, nobody knows that. I doubt if Dorothy knew that. I know Cheryl didn't know it.

ET: No, uh-uh. That's sump'n. Did Ruby tell you -- where'd I read that -- that Ruby told you he got injected for a cold?

AM: Well, he didn't tell me -- I saw it.

ET: So they injected him -- he had pneumonia or something, right?

AM: No, he had -- he was always sick. Kinda patsy, sissy-like. But the doctor -- I didn't see that doctor's name on the list -- he'd given him that shot.

ET: Really?

AM: Yeah. County Doctor. A guy came down here from Chicago or somethin'.

ET: Oh -- okay, well that was, uh... Werner Tuteur, from Elgin, Illinois, which is right outside Chicago.

AM: Allrighty -- Okay. Okay -- that's it. He was there about every week or two. Jack would have to have a shot of penicillin. Ruby didn't tell me when

he got 'em. Ruby never mentioned it to me.

ET: I see.

AM: But I do know that he was gettin' penicillin.

ET: Uh-huh.

AM: Why, is that in here?

ET: No -- I didn't know why this guy had to come down from Chicago to give him penicillin.

AM: Well, he damn sure had access to that jail.

ET: Well, why couldn't we get penicillin in Dallas County?

AM: I don't know. (Both laugh)

ET: See, these are the questions I'm faced with.

AM: I know why -- okay. Pickard, Dr. Pickard and Murdoch...

ET: Uh-huh.

AM: ... Chinese doctor. They were tryin' to give this... fool...

ET: Oh, Tuteur?

AM: They were tryin' to make him County Doctor.

ET: Oh, I see.

AM: He was here a short while...

ET: And L. J. West came down from Oklahoma.

AM: He was always buddying up to me when he was here, this guy.

ET: Tuteur, yeah.

AM: How'd the hell they know he was from Illinois? How'd this get in there? See, it fits, it fits, and I thought that maybe I was wrong. They sent him -- that was part of the damn plot -- they sent that son of a bitch to give it to him. I don't know.

ET: Yeah -- and Ruby died pretty quick after he got those shots.

AM: That letter that I had from Ruby -- he had it in his hand. And he sweat that day he was goin' in the hospital. And that letter was folded real small. Maybe like this. (2" square) he shook hands with me, and the letter was in there, and I just put it in my pocket. It laid in my dresser drawer for years. And when I got it out, you could see where Jack's hand was sweatin', and part of it's faded out. That's Boca Raton, too.

ET: Well, that's somethin' -- that's definitely somethin' right there. Now you know, the stuff that Walthers had from the hospital bed had blood on it, and Cheryl told me the IV had come loose from his arm, and it sprayed some blood around on all the mail, and there's some of the...

AM: I still have the... the morning that Buddy was killed... That's why he was late. He went to the Ladies Wear Store, and he bought his wife some drawers. Have you met Dorothy?

ET: I have, yes.

AM: She was a beautiful young lady.

ET: Uh-huh.

AM: He was fond of her. And I've still got -- Buddy still had the receipt for those panties in his breast pocket, and I've got 'em, and it's soaked in blood.

ET: Is that right?

AM: Somewhere. My wife hides that shit from me, 'cause I break up. (Starts to break up)

ET: Yeah.

AM: But I got it. Somewhere.

ET: Wow, that's somethin'. But that reminds me -- I've read somewhere that y'all had a tip from a Mesquite policeman named Herb Lowe.

AM: Herb Lowe is a lyin' son of a bitch.

ET: I don't know him, so...

AM: Hey, I know This came through the radio room, and a guy by the name of Virgil did ask somebody, Mrs. DeWeece. I couldn't have been able to tell you the name. Mrs. DeWeece called and she knew me, and she said, 'They've got a suspicious person out there.' Now, this is what Virgil told me: 'Just why don't y'all go out there and see what it's all about.' So Herb Lowe had nothin' to do with it -- he's a publicity hound that just wanted his name in the news. Just a lyin' son of a bitch.

ET: I know you've got to get goin', but you've pretty much gone through my list here, but I wanna get with you again sometime soon.

AM: Have you ever been out to where Decker's deputies meet once a month?

ET: No, where's that?

AM: Hell, you've been workin' on this since before Jack Faulkner died?

ET: Yeah. Yeah, I sure have.

AM: And who all have you talked to besides Jack Faulkner?

ET: I talked to the Walthers family, Mark Oakes, many different authors, I tried to talk to Jim Bowles, I checked the libraries, newspapers, and read every book I could get my hands on. I talked to Charles Klihr, a henchman of General Walker, and Mrs. Edna Hartman, a witness to the bullet gouge in the grass in Dealey plaza. There's chapters on different subjects, and the Cuban angle is the way I went with this. You see, Walthers' mother-in-law lived over on Harlandale and she had noticed a group of Cubans that lived on harlandale, anti-Castro Cubans that left this house the week of the assassination, and she said, 'You need to check them out, Buddy, 'cause I've seen that Oswald at this house.'

AM: Now that's Dorothy's mother.

ET: That's Dorothy's mother. And he checked out that address, which was 3126 Harlandale, and he found some names, Manuel Rodriguez Orcarberro and Jorge Salazar were the people that rented that house. And Manuel Rodriguez was on the Secret Service list of threats to the President. And Buddy wrote a report saying, 'Here's what I found out about these Cubans. They left the house the week of the assassination... Do you know anything about that?

AM: Yup, but I'd forgotten it. Right here is where my car was parked -- the one I was tellin' you about. (Points to Elm Street Extension on map)

ET: Uh-huh.

AM: And this FBI man was standin' right here at this bus stop.

ET: Houston and Elm.

AM: When I heard the shots, Decker and them had gone off down this way -- I was right here at Houston and Main, lookin' across here.

ET: Right.

AM: And they had already gotten past.

ET: But you were far enough down here you could see the red cloud from his head, you said.

AM: Yeah, I was right here. But right here on Main east of Houston is where Decker had all them deputies lined up.

ET: Okay.

AM: And it was the one said I hope somebody kills him.

ET: Well, let me go ahead and take you back home. We'll take some pictures.

Although it has not conclusively been proven in my mind who fired the shot that killed Buddy Walthers, I do not believe that he was murdered to silence his testimony about the evidence of extra bullets in the JFK assassination. It has been written about often by conspiracy authors who classify it as a “mysterious death,” but I find that this categorization of Walthers killing is unnecessarily paranoid and unfair to the other authentic mysterious deaths that have been associated with the witnesses to the details of the Kennedy case. A partial list of these deaths is included in the Appendix.

Deputy E.R. Walthers is immortalized at the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C., and should be revered as a hero for his bravery in the performance of his duties as a Law Officer. I hope that this study of the assassination case will make more people aware of his role in virtually every aspect of the crime investigation and his uncanny ability to be at the right place at the right time that fateful day, discovering the key pieces of evidence both at Dealey Plaza and the Ruth Paine house. His off-the-cuff determinations of the sources of the shots, trajectories, and gathering of evidential artifacts ranks as the best police work done that day. His instincts took him immediately to the picket fence, the manhole cover on Elm, the curb on Main, the Texas School Book Depository and Dal-Tex Building, the Texas Theater, the Paine garage, and the Cuban headquarters on Harlandale. His prior acquaintance with Jack Ruby and their relationship during Ruby’s incarceration were the icing on the cake of total involvement in the case, as well as his role in the Garrison investigation and arrest of Sergio Arcacha Smith. No one man was

associated with more elements of first-hand primary involvement in the Kennedy assassination. I believe that through the efforts of Walthers we can begin to understand the crime enough to look in the right direction for its final solution, and for that we are in his debt. Let us remember the man and the price he and his family paid in the struggle for justice in America, not forgetting his many contributions toward maintaining what is good about this country, nor losing sight of the fact that Vengeance is the Lord's, not ours.

Psalm 64

Hear my voice, Oh God, in my complaint: Preserve my life from dread of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers, From the tumult of those who do iniquity, Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword. They aimed their bitter speech as their arrow, To shoot from concealment at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him, and do not fear. They hold fast to themselves an evil purpose; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, "Who can see them?" They devise injustices, saying, "We are ready with a well-conceived plot"; For the inward thought and the heart of a man are deep. But God will shoot at them with an arrow; Suddenly they will be wounded. So they will make him stumble; Their own tongue is against them; All who see them will shake the head. Then all men will fear, And will declare the work of God, And will consider what He has done. The righteous man will be glad in the Lord, and will take refuge in Him; And all the upright in heart will glory.





Thomas E. Beckham

APPENDIX

HSCA

7-18-77

To: Jonathan Blackmer

From: Jim Garrison

Re: Thomas E. Beckham

It was interesting that you mentioned this subject because he was always of special interest to me, although -- as you will see -- I was never able to do much with him. I have no idea how he surfaced for you but quite apparently it was from another direction than his arrival into our focus, which is probably all to the good. Anyway, here is a bit of background on him -- with a few supporting exhibits -- which may be interesting to you.

Beckham, from our perspective (looking back after 10 years), can be described as a subject worthy of inquiry for four basic reasons:

(1) He is -- or was -- a protégé of F. Lee Crisman (if, as seems quite possible, to put it conservatively), CRISMAN was one of the three "tramps" arrested by Dallas police (back of the grassy knoll and in the railroad yards) after the assassination, then Beckham's being his protégé makes him somewhat radio-active even if there were nothing more -- but there is more. As to evidence that such a relationship existed, I will attach a few samples. (Incidentally, when -- if ever -- are the Dallas

police and/or the Bureau going to oblige us with names of the eight or nine individuals arrested -- as established by the photographs -- after the assassination? In addition, that is, to the arrestee initially palmed off as "Jim Braden, oil man.")

(2) Beckham was a part of what can best be described as "the Banister cell" operating, by 1962 and 1963 out of GUY BANISTER's "private detective office." (BANISTER, as you know served with Naval Intelligence in WW II and was the retired SAC of the Bureau's Chicago office). Others operating from that group -- or working with it by 1963 -- were DAVID FERRIE, WILLIAM DALZELL, LEE OSWALD, KERRY THORNLEY, SERGIO ARCACHA, GRADY DURHAM, LUIS RABEL (and, apparently as well, CARLOS QUIROGA, EMILIO SANTANA, and others active in the Cuban Revolutionary Front -- the main anti-Castro effort in New Orleans. More details below).

(3) Beckham was a member of that bizarre cluster of "Old Church" evangelical sects which we found recurrent in the whole affair and which characterized some of the apparently more radioactive individuals we came across in the course of digging away at the New Orleans sub-structure (e.g. As early as November, 1962, during one of his frequent arrests which, up to that point, characterized his earlier years) until, about 1962 or 1963, the development of his relationship with his Old Church gurus (apparently initially DAVID FERRIE, then subsequently CRISMAN) seems to have cured his economic problems -- he was describing himself as an "ordained priest" of the OLD ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH (as was DAVID FERRIE -- whose priestly vestments we found in

his apartment after his death, described as due to natural causes by the coroner despite the two typed suicide notes). Later he became a "minister" in the UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH (as was F. LEE CRISMAN, later apparently a "bishop" in same).

Still later -- after varied divine positions in various cities (including Austin, Texas) -- he sets up light housekeeping in Omaha, Nebraska, as the bishop, now, of the PRIESTHOOD OF THE HOLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH -- under the apparently specific sponsorship of CRISMAN (See attachments re this last). (During this Omaha phase, in the late 1960's by which time he had elevated himself to the title of Dr. T. Edward Beckham, he had a -- curious for him --relationship with an Air Force Colonel at the SAC Base there at Offut A.F.B. I recall that, during my questioning of him before the Grand Jury, he described this as a "business relationship" -- somewhat interesting in view of the fact that he never advanced beyond the 11th grade and had no perceptible business background. With regard to this relationship to Offut A.F.B., see subsequent notes and attachments re CRISMAN's apparent background in the Air Force and his subsequent relationship with Boeing Aircraft before he ascended to his make-believe religious vocation with the UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH).

In passing, you may want to take note of the fact that LAVERNE CRAFARD, who departed Dallas and Jack Ruby's hospitality (suggest re-reading here of Julia Ann Mercer's real statements, as she gave them to me) precipitously the day following the assassination, was affiliated with an equally exotic and obscure OLD CHURCH, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND

CHURCH OF THE FIRST BORN. (Quaere: how far is Dallas, Oregon, his nominal home base, from Tacoma, Washington, CRISMAN's "ministerial" base? I am away from town at this writing, so have no access to the WC material, but I recall gratuitous references by CRAFTARD in his testimony and in his notebook to Boeing, although it seems to emerge there as an "insurance company.")

More recently, as you will know, FRANK STURGIS applied in Florida to found a corresponding obscure sect of his own (G.F. would have details, and undoubtedly Sturgis' rationale on that). Nor would I be inclined as accepting as pure coincidence of the consistent, gratuitously present divinity, the fact that the killer of Officer Tippit accomplished his act in the vicinity of a temporarily unoccupied, unnamed (but open) evangelical church at 10th and Crawford, in the rear entrance of which -- after circling the block -- he seems quite literally to have found sanctuary (See Heritage of Stone, pp. 62-63, where the sanctuary is memorialized in the Dallas Police radio calls). As to the possible functions of this evangelical church structure in the general conspiracy, see my notes following this memorandum.

(4) A fourth reason BECKHAM is interesting is because long after we questioned him, after extraditing him from Omaha -- over his opposition, and getting him before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, we came across what quite apparently seemed to be Dr. Beckham himself -- wearing glasses, as I recall -- in a film taken immediately following the assassination in front of the Book Depository. However, here I must

emphasize the subjective factor in identifying someone so "identified" in a film -- and so I place it as the fourth point of interest. Also, there is the factor of Beckham's troubled years prior to this occasion and it is hard to accept a group as careful as had to be here involved bringing him aboard so sensitive a mission (arguing against this, on the other hand, is the indication that young men with problem backgrounds -- the CRAFTARDS, the JACK LAWRENCES seem to have a special value of their own to clandestine operation managers. Perhaps they are more malleable, having finally stumbled into easy security. Or perhaps, unlike more productive -- and hence, busier -- young men, it is they who ultimately find their way to the easiest security available in the country. In any case, by 1963, -- and subsequently -- BECKHAM seems to have found sponsors and a home, and his succession of arrest records ends. See attached arrest records)

It was a clear film, in excellent color, and at least a few of us concluded that it could very likely be BECKHAM. However, as I recall, by that time we had lost the Shaw case (universally interpreted by the press as an acquittal of all parts of the intelligence community) and the press was pounding away at us as prevaricators, poltroons and opportunists of the lowest order, so we shrugged at the remarkable similarity of the image, and let it pass. Now, however, with your having come up out of left field with his name -- whatever your reasons and your sources -- I will see if we can locate it, although at this juncture I am not overly optimistic.

Anyway, those are some of the reasons BECKHAM (and any structure you

have found him to be a part of) is indeed worthy of in-depth inquiry.

Assuming you are still reading this lengthy memo, I will append a post-script to it tomorrow adding some additional details concerning the subject and itemizing the enclosures.

Regards,

JIM GARRISON

ADDENDUM

SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON BECKHAM:

1. As indicated by his included arrest record, BECKHAM seems to have been in the Army in 1961. However, the Post Stockade records at Camp Leroy Johnson (2/1/61) and at Fort Leonard Wood (one week later, 2/8/61) indicate under the Charge only the word "inquiry." What this means and how his Army career petered out so fast is likely in the Grand Jury transcripts of his testimony inasmuch as I'm sure I wouldn't have skated past that during my long questioning of him. In any case by 1962 he is back in New Orleans and by Fall he has been elevated to a priesthood in the OLD ORTHODOX CHURCH (which is probably another way of saying he has met DAVID FERRIE and, soon if not by then, is about to develop his contacts with the BANISTER menagerie at 531 Lafayette and 544 Camp).

2. Court records we obtained indicate that in January, 1963, for an undisclosed period, BECKHAM was a patient in the mental institution at Mandeville, north of Lake Pontchartrain. Mandeville, unlike Jackson (where 8 months later Shaw and Ferrie were trying to plant Oswald), is essentially a civil mental institution, where commitment is often voluntary. (Jackson, on the other hand, is strictly for the criminally insane). Perhaps BECKHAM had a temporary mental problem or perhaps his new, older friends were toying with the possibility of an alternative patsy in case of a last minute problem with LHO. In any case, the Mandeville hospital refused to supply us voluntarily with information and the point involved was not sufficiently significant to justify our seeking a court order.

3. One source interviewed by us in February, 1968 (Bob Lavender in Seattle), who obviously knew CRISMAN well and apparently knew BECKHAM fairly well advised us that BECKHAM indicated to him that while in New Orleans he had assisted in establishing a fund-raising office with SERGIO ARCACHA and LUIS RABEL to support anti- Castro activity. The same source quoted CRISMAN as saying he had made many trips from Olympia, Washington, with BECKHAM to the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. With regard to our Grand Jury subpoena of BECKHAM (from Omaha) the source quoted CRISMAN as having called him (Lavender) at the time and having said that he "would kill BECKHAM if I am subpoenaed as a result of anything he says."

4. A separate source interviewed by us (David Lewis in new Orleans)

stated that after his arrival in N.O. For the Grand Jury appearance BECKHAM paid him cash to steal from a former hanger-on at BANISTER's his file of OLD CHURCH material and any files he had pertaining to the assassination investigation. (See Lewis' statement) The informant, according to his statement, obliged. BECKHAM, by now had fallen upon happier times and was driving (this being 1968) a 1968 beige Dodge Charger with Nebraska plates.

6. It should be added that David Lewis (see reference to his interview above) was informed by BECKHAM that he had obtained his priest's papers from EARL ANGLIN JAMES of Toronto. (Our files indicated that DAVID FERRIE made a number of calls to JAMES' number in Toronto in 1962 and 1963. G.F. has copies now of D.F.'s '62 and '63 long distance calls, although I don't think the particular calls to Father -- it may be Archbishop -- EARL ANGLIN JAMES are indicated thereon by the appropriate Toronto numbers. We had them, and still may remember, if we can dig them up). You might want to make a routine cross-check, in the regard, as to any connection with JAMES -- a bishop or archbishop in the OLD ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH -- and possible Toronto activities of JAMES EARL RAY and ERIC GALT AND CO. (Speaking of long shots, that is).

7. THOMAS BECKHAM was subpoenaed before our Grand Jury in early 1968 at the same time we subpoenaed LORAN HALL and LAWRENCE HOWARD. After opposing the subpoena both in Omaha and, on the final day, in New Orleans, he appeared before the Grand Jury on February 15th. His general response as to all issues was that he knew virtually nothing about

anything. As to other important characters, for example, he either didn't know them or only knew them casually. Consequently -- since a glib witness can usually survive the first encounter, if he is willing to take enough chances on future re-questioning, we had to accept the tactical alternative of getting him on the record about as many details as possible. We questioned him, as I recall, for about 4 hours and the positions he took, the answers he gave, may be of value to you now. My recollection, for example, is of questioning him in depth from the BANISTER operation to anti-Castro Cuban activity to his relationships with FERRIE and CRISMAN to his OLD CHURCH activity to his relationship to personnel at Offut A.F.B. in Omaha to his possible presence in Dallas and so on. This transcript (like the Grand Jury transcripts of HOWARD, HALL, CRISMAN, DALZELL, KERRY THORNLEY -- a most important one -- MARINA OSWALD and others) are presently in the custody of District Attorney Harry Connick, Criminal District Court Bldg., 2700 Tulane Ave., New Orleans, LA. I know of no serious reason -- in view of your official credentials and your mission -- why these and any other Grand Jury transcripts should not be readily available to you following a request on your part.

RE: FRED LEE CRISMAN

In the course of summarizing, in the previous pages, the activities of BECKHAM -- especially his upward mobility after 1962 -- I have, I think, said most of what can be said about CRISMAN (with the possible additional value which the enclosures represent). Keeping in mind his background and make-up (to the extent that its details are available) we appear to have

here: an intelligent, cool and forceful in a low-key way (based on our confrontation in the Grand Jury room), educated, former Air Force pilot and Boeing employee -- who, for no perceivable reason, at a critical stage in the Cold War, mutated into a roving bishop in a non-existent church (THE UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH)

The only effective approach to such surface mysteries is not by the traditional investigative and prosecutorial approach of sending police officers, no matter how bright, out to get traditional "evidence" (fingerprints, footprints, confessions and so on). I suggest that such "evidence" is, in the initial stages at least, not available -- for the reason that we are dealing with well buried sub-structures, covered with camouflage nets of irrelevance, so that the roles of the BANISTERS, the FERRIES, the GEORGE LYMAN PAINES, the CRISMANS -- and their tools, the OSWALDS, the THORNLEYS, and the BECKHAMS (to name but a few of a substantial cast which appears to include, as well, the RUBYS, the LAWRENCE MEYERS, the LARRY CRAFTARDS, the SERGIO ARCACHAS, the LUIS RABELS, the BRECK WALLS, the EUGENE HALE BRADINGS ("JIM BRADEN"), the BRUCE CARLINS, the remnants and siblings of the erstwhile TRAFFICANTE (for which read LANSKY) apparatus, the HALLS and the STURGISSES and the other mechanic-adventurers of the NO NAME KEY prototype, all of which may happen to be relevant, operating, needless to say, at different levels, ranging from couriers and spear-carriers on through the ranks of foremen and supervisors on up to action and logistics executives -- is to approach the problem in terms of application (and elimination where inapplicability develops as apparent) of models.

We are, in short, dealing with bits and pieces of a clandestine structure and the harlequin roles of most of the key players are quite literally designed to make the traditional law-enforcement approach both time consuming and irrelevant. Hence, our evaluation of CRISMAN must be accomplished by the application of models against the background of the history of that period in the '60's, a period of virtually paranoid response on the part of at least one sector of the American intelligence community to its envisioned pressures, presumably endangering national security, of the Cold War. (this is not to say that those at the level of, say, a WALL, or a CRAFTARD, or a BECKHAM were motivated ideologically. For them, undoubtedly the motivation was money -- and a lifetime of security).

Applying to CRISMAN the relevant model, I suggest the only reasonable conclusion is that he was (and probably is, if still around) an operative at a deep cover level in a long-range, clandestine, intelligence mission directly (in terms of our national intelligence paranoia) related to maintaining national security. Continuing to apply the modular test, CRISMAN emerges as an operative at a supervisory level, a Fagin to the Artful Dodger -- such as a Beckham -- who are acquired by the apparatus to carry out the menial jobs that are needed to push a current mission forward, a middle-man -- in the final analysis -- between the mechanics who eliminate and the handyman, who otherwise supports, a termination mission, on one hand, and the distant, far-removed, deeply submerged Command level, on the other.

Thus, in conclusion, I suggest that if a BECKHAM develops to be of apparent importance as a subject for extensive inquiry, then a CRISMAN should be regarded (as his patent mentor and sponsor through the passing '60's) as ten -- or a hundred times -- as important, with regard to investigative potential. All the more reason, of course, to develop and dig away at whatever leads you may have as to BECKHAM. For he will inevitably lead to his CRISMAN -- whose extension he is.

A NOTE AS TO THE POSSIBLE FUNCTION OF THE "OLD CHURCHES":

Similarly, as with CRISMAN, I think that in the course of the memo the periodic necessary references to the OLD CHURCHES have half-answered the question. Applying to the subject the available models, I suggest that the most likely rational conclusion is that here, again -- except with more particularity -- we have a clandestine substructure developed to serve the intelligence community's concept of national security. A bizarre structure, to be sure, but its very strangeness -- its threadbare irrelevance -- makes it all the more safe from possible investigators who are looking for spies wearing trenchcoats and carrying, like so many James Bonds, gold cigarette cases. The churches -- like all churches -- are virtually free from official inquiry by virtue of the Constitution, not to mention American custom. The "ministers" and "bishops" can accumulate money (religious fund-raising) without serious inquiry as to the source. They are free from the 9 to 5 routine expected of normal, patriotic Americans, free to operate in relative seclusion from the expected social involvements, free to engage in obscure crusades or

missions and free to travel extensively (for unmarked and unobserved periods) as assignments may dictate. And where, as may be the case in some instances, there may actually be a home structure for the particular church, one would have the most natural of safe-houses.

Let a few examples make the point. CRISMAN's background with the Air Force and Boeing before he takes up his unconfining "ministry" in the UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH (in the Boeing Company's backyard, Tacoma, Olympia). BECKHAM, upon his accession to "bishop" (and, apparently, following some time spent with CRISMAN in Washington) arrives in Omaha -- a place with which he has no discernable previous affiliation or contacts -- and sets up his own obscure ministry in the HOLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH (establishing, en passant, a high level contact officer at Offlut A.F.B. with whom he is "in business"), a ministry which -- despite its obscurity -- is sufficiently successful in that by 1968 he is driving a 1968 Dodge Charger. DAVID FERRIE, whose contract pilot-adventurer affiliation with the Agency should no longer need elaboration, who by 1963 is not only operating out of BANISTER's place (who, a year or so earlier, was helping to administer the New Orleans version of the Cuban Revolutionary Front), is not only a priest in the OLD ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH but has, to boot, the warranty supplied by a priest: lace vestments. And last, but hardly least, we have the handy old evangelical church -- which, I now recall, was THE ABUNDANT LIFE TEMPLE at the scene of Tippitt's killing, which provided apparent sanctuary for his murderer -- and no telling what cover and organizational-locale value prior to the assassination itself... (Nor should we overlook the expressed

affiliation of the peripative LAVERNE CRAFT with the GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CHURCH OF THE FIRST BORN, whatever that is.

Anyway, there you are. You asked me if we had encountered a man named Thomas Beckham. The preceding pages represent my answer. I hope some of these notes are of value to you.

I enclose a few random exhibits, with an itemized summary, which may or may not be useful to your operation.

JIM GARRISON

To: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

From: Wm. C. Boxley

RE: ABUNDANT LIFE TEMPLE, Dallas, Texas.

1. Dallas County records show that UNITED MISSIONS OF AMERICA, "a Texas corporation of Dallas, Texas" represented by O. B. GRAHAM, president, purchased the Oak Cliff Christian Church at 300 E. Tenth Street, Oak Cliff, Dallas (as recorded in Vol. 5751. P. 434, Dallas County deeds) from trustees of the Oak Cliff christian Church, Otto B. Eisenlehr, Wad Payne, Jr. And James H. Stevens, on April 3, 1962.

2. O. B. GRAHAM sold the church (shown in 1964 Dallas City Directory as the ABUNDANT LIFE TEMPLE) to LIVING WAY, INC., an Oklahoma Corporation, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, on August 25, 1964, notarized in Tulsa, 8/25/64 by

DORIS E. WERMUTH, a notary of Tulsa County. Return on the deed was to STANLEY C. HOGG, attorney, 1613 Kirby Bldg, 1507 Main Street, Dallas, Texas, from P. O. Box 349, Tulsa. The foregoing transaction is recorded in Deeds Vol. 4082. 1163.

3. On March 2, 1966, LIVING WAY, INC., represented by its president, R. G. Conley, sold the property to REVIVAL TABERNACLE ASSOCIATION, represented by the Reverend Faye A. Spencer, whose meetings are advertised currently at the church. In its present form, the church's religion, that is colloquially-described as "holy roller" and its present congregation consists of approximately 60/40 negro-white attendance.

4. INCORPORATORS, UNITED MISSIONS OF AMERICA.

The Rev. O. B. GRAHAM is variously listed as Otis B. Graham and Oscar P. Graham in Dallas directories. He presently resides in a trailer park operation at 800 E. Greenbriar Lane, Dallas, but in 1964 was shown as OSCAR P. GRAHAM (wife THELMA) pastor of Abundant Life Temple, resident 1119 Sunny Glen, which was the former address of the Abundant Life Church before it moved into the 300 E. Tenth St. location in 1962. Of note is the occupant of 1115 Sunny Glen: HAROLD E. McCullough, used car dealer with offices at 8103 E. Jefferson.

With Graham, other incorporators, according to records in the Secretary of State's Office, Austin, Texas (there are NO records in the Dallas County Assumed Names Index) were:

1. WALTER C. TUCKER, wife Norma J., a mechanic with CONTINENTAL TRAILWAYS (housed originally across Stemmons Expressway from the

Texas School Book Depository, and employer of KENNETH COSY, the bus driver of 15 years service on the Shreveport run, whose telephone number (FR5-5591) twice appears on the last page of Oswald's notebook. CONTINENTAL personnel office states Tucker was employed Jan. 30, 1961 to July 18, 1962, and show that on July 23, 1962 he reported for work with the Denver Salt Lake City Lines, Denver, Colo. However, another incorporator, Sherrell, see below, indicates Tucker never left the city of Dallas.

2. GEORGE L. SHERRELL, wife Jessie, residence 1010 Ravenia, owner of a used car business at 513 Singleton Blvd. Despite the two-block discrepancy in numbers between Sherrell Used Car Lot and RAY BRANTLEY's gun store on Singleton, the absence of intervening buildings across the street from Sherrell's and a short block between their addresses made them almost neighbors. Furthermore, the proprietor of an auto parts firm next door to Sherrell's former location, states that Sherrell and Brantley were good friends. Now out of the used car business and still residing at 1010 N. Ravenia, telephone FE1-5154, Sherrell states GRAHAM was something of a crook where money was concerned, that Tucker is around Dallas still, and is delivering cleaning to people in the Ravenia neighborhood. He specifically named Mrs. John L. McBee of 1006 N. Ravenia as a customer of Tucker's, but Mrs. McBee denies that is the name of her cleaners delivery man. This discrepancy and Sherrell's stated hostility toward Graham need to be investigated further.

3. RED STROOPE was the third named incorporator of the United Missions of America. No further information regarding Stroope was given in the papers of incorporation. Dallas city directories show no Red Stroope

in 1962, 1963, or 1964. There is shown, however, a Dale R. (Mary J.) Stroope, a laboratory technician of Mobil Oil, living at 1723 Las Cruces Lane. This Mr. Stroope denies that he was an incorporator of the church.

In about 1968, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison received a letter from an anonymous informant who had heard more of this story from one of the participants. The complete letter follows (Old Catholic Church file, Assassinations Archives, Washington DC):

[quote]

Mr. Garrison:

The following account may be fiction or it may be fact, I dare not commit myself by trying to substantiate it. The story was told to me in bits and pieces over a period of three months by a man, whom, I admit, has very little credibility to his character. The only reason I take the time to relate this to you, is because it is now past the realm of coincidence.

I fully realize the consequences of my actions, and so therefore I am prepared to co-operate with your office to the fullest extent, if you think the information I have warrants it.

Naturally, what I refer to is the Kennedy assassination.

It is hard to know where to begin, because the beginning was years before I had occasion to come upon this information. This is the story, the best I can relate to you:

It seems that back in 1960 and 1961 a group of men in this country began collecting money for a so-called invasion force into Cuba. This "army" was prepared to attack and capture Castro's Cuba in an invasion sponsored by the CIA. This is common knowledge, but what is not so well known, is WHY THE INVASION FAILED! As the information was given to me, a few of the leaders of the anti-Castro force in this country decided to flee the country with a good deal of the funds collected from the sympathizers of the Cuban refugees. These men whom I will name later, were arrested in the Miami airport with the money in their possession. The arresting officers, members of the CIA, confiscated the money; amounting to almost three million dollars. Then, as the story goes, President Kennedy, feeling that he had been duped, and would be left holding the bag, and ... realizing the international consequences of such an invasion, pulled the air support that had been orally committed. This, of course, led to the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion.

Since most of the 1400 or more invasion members were either killed or captured, the Cuban leaders in this country put most of the blame upon President Kennedy himself. I feel that I have evidence, though admittedly hearsay, that can prove this course of events.

I was told this story by a man who allegedly was a part of the Cuban

revolutionary movement in this country. He claims to have been one of those arrested in Miami. Also, he claims to have been under FBI investigation at various times. I was in Omaha Nebraska at the time this was told to me, and at about the same time, so I'm sure you remember, your office was trying to get Perry Russo's girl friend; Mrs McBlaine or something to that effect, down to New Orleans for questioning. It seems rather strange to me that she would wind up in Omaha since she really had no people there. Also, WHY did the gentleman whom I quote decide to come to Omaha? He had no job there, no relatives, and no real desire to find either. He moved to Omaha in March from Lincoln, Nebraska, where he had spent about two months or less with no visible means of support. He had just previously been in the State of Washington with an associate of his. The following are a few facts that the Omaha man told me, either directly or indirectly.

He told me about the pilot named Ferrie long before your office announced your interest in him. He described the man in great detail and claimed to know him personally. He also predicted his demise.

I overheard numerous telephone conversations (mostly with the man in Washington) in which he asked with great concern whether it was the FBI, the CIA, or who, that had been asking questions about them, and whether it was that they had something on him or on "one of the others."

He claimed to have either known or had met the Mr. Shaw you questioned.

He was originally from New Orleans, and claims to have worked on your staff at one time as an investigator.

He says he saw Oswald in New Orleans. Also a man who "looked like Ruby".

At one time, the Omaha man and the Washington man met in a hotel there and discussed plans to go to New Orleans to see a man called Sergio Arcacha. They went, but could not find him or another man they said was there. Three days later, the local Newspapers Announced that you, too had been looking for Mr. Arcacha for questioning and that he had told you he would talk to you, but not alone.

He described the assassination scene in great detail and told me some facts about it that I had definitely not heard before.

He claims that Oswald was a patsy, a setup, to take the blame for the whole thing. Also that OSWALD WAS A HOMOSEXUAL like Shaw, Ferrie, Tippit (Dallas police officer) and a score of others.

He told me about the motorcycle police officer who claimed to have seen a man with a rifle run from the grassy knoll in front of Kennedy. (incidentally, the Omaha man claims that this is where the fatal shot came from) The police officer mysteriously had a very serious accident right after the incident, and now is a near idiot.

He claimed to have met the late President on a number of occasions, and he talked about him with very little respect.

He claims that he left Louisiana upon the advice of the Governor.

The Omaha man and the Washington man were always in telephone contact with each other, no matter where they were. Once, the Washington man was in Washington DC for some reason or another and they conferred by telephone twice in that one day.

The following is a list of the names for the story above. If you feel that any of them fit into a proper place, or into your current investigation, please contact me so we can further discuss that.

1. Sergio Arcacha
2. Lucian Rebel
3. Fred L. Crisman
4. Thomas E. Beckham
5. Martin Grassi

Mr Garrison, perhaps this is all hogwash. I really do not know. I can

go into more detail on all of this, and I have the addresses of those mentioned above. I would come to New Orleans myself, but I do not have the necessary finances. Also, I would have to be assured of protection, at least to the best of your ability.

I have arranged to be reached through the Democratic chairman here, Mr Thomas Reagan, 1C1 Woodbridge Way, Mesquite, Texas. His telephone number is: AT 5-4573

If the information I have related to you here is of any consequence, contact Mr. Reagan, and he will contact me.

Good luck in your investigation.

Mr. _____

In the list of five people toward the end of this letter, the first two, Sergio Arcacha and Lucien Rebel (correct spelling: Luis Rabel) were the two top officers in the New Orleans Cuban Revolutionary Council. The fourth person, Thomas Beckham, has written an essay about his experiences. That essay does not mention the \$3 million, but does describe some of the related developments (Old Catholic Church file, Assassination Archives, Washington DC):

In 1961, I was 19 years old and living in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was a peaceful time, the best I can remember. I was full of ideas which I

like to call undeveloped dreams. My father Arvel Monroe Beckham was away on the high seas trying to make us a living. I was the second oldest of all five boys. It was at this time of my life that I was looking for excitement and fulfillment. ...

Jack [Martin], to me, seemed like "Mister Cool." He knew everything and everyone. He had all types of I.D. and badges. For this reason, when I met a few of his Cuban friends, I was very impressed. Within just a short while, I found it easy to be a part of the Cuban crowd. They were all very friendly. That's when I met Mr X and Dr X. Dr X was formally a teacher and physician in Cuba, and Mr X was in the dry cleaning business in Cuba. They seemed to welcome my presence without question. I guess because they knew I did not speak Spanish, and I was a friend of Jack's. In any case, they welcomed me as a friend.

As the weeks passed, one day Jack ask while I was at his apartment if I wanted to be a priest. He (Jack) showed me all types of certificates and even a black suit with all the vestments of his holy office. He said he would get me ordained in the Old Catholic Church. In a few days, I became a legal ordained priest. Then a couple of days later, two young Cubans met me at Walgreen's Drug Store on Canal Street and told me that I could be of service to my country. They had some kind of police I.D. they showed me. I was informed they worked for the government. A few days later, I opened up a mission on Rampart Street using funds they had given me. The mission carried the lettering on its glass front of UCMF, which I was told stood for United Catholic Mission Fathers. Which I later learned stood for United

Cuban Mission Forces. Strange as it may seem, I ask no questions. At last I myself had become someone important and was really needed. I felt like I was a little general and saint all rolled into one.

I was told that Castro was a criminal and that the CIA was going to kill him and free Cuba. My little two-story mission was only a front, an assembly place for Cubans. And Dr X and Mr X were very high in rank.

It was not long that I, "Rev Thomas Edward Beckham," a priest in the Old Catholic Church, learned that I was just a front for a small group of powerful Cuban exiles which made New Orleans, Louisiana, and Miami, Florida, their home base for the 1,200 man Cuban Brigade, armed and trained in the United States by the CIA.

The things I began to hear shocked me. I guess I was not developed enough to stand the mental pressure. A great deal of money was raised for the movement by the use of bank type tin cans which had two flags crossed, an American and a Cuban. Under them were the wording: KEEP AMERICA FREE, Communists are only 90 miles from American shores." Plus a special coin was used for a badge by officials of the movement for their I.D.

Then one day, I overheard talk about President John F. Kennedy. They said that the CIA was training men for them at Algiers Naval Station and that the President was to give them US Air Support for the Brigade. Then one said he did not trust Kennedy. Then a person said two assassinations

are as easy as one. That's when I wanted to take a walk and fast. I felt like a Jew in a Nazi camp. The next day, I went to see another friend of mine, Mr G.B., a former Special Agent of the FBI. I told him what was going on. I remember just what he said: "Kid, how and the hell did you get your ass in this mess?" (G.B. = Guy Banister)

It was later I learned that Kennedy was killed with the knowledge of the CIA by the Cubans and this double-agent, Lee Harvey Oswald. It was to look like Castro had it done. Therefore serving the benefit of all.

I also learned that the Cubans did not trust Kennedy, believed him to be a supporter of Castro, because he withdrew air support for the Cuban Brigade. They said Kennedy would pay well in more ways than one. That's when I learned that some of the Cubans met with Kennedy, stating that they could prove him to be a Communist. I don't know how true it was. But they did get him to meet their demands in 1962 to the tune of millions of dollars with the aid of Kennedy's personal friend and attorney to handle the Bay of Pigs survivors. He (Kennedy) assured them (Cubans) that the Brigade flag would fly again. But the machine works were in motion, months ahead of time.

I remember how sick I was when I learned of his death. I felt that in some way, I was a part of it. I also wanted no part of the so-called "justice" of this great country. But time seemed to heal my cuts.

Then one day, almost 7 1/2 later, I found myself as a witness

before a New Orleans Grand Jury into the investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. I knew someone had set me up again. Why I did not know. At this time, I was living in Omaha, Nebraska. But long before I appeared as a Grand Jury witness, I was advised on what not to say, if I knew what was best for me. And I did -- I wanted to live. As to date, Mr G. B.. Was found dead plus all the others I knew personally.

[unquote]

William Penn Jones, Jr. died January 25, 1998 from Alzheimer's disease at the age of 83. This outspoken Texan was a newspaper editor, author, brigadier general, husband and father. he was best known for being one of the earliest Kennedy assassination researchers and critics of the Warren Report.

In the town of Midlothian, Texas, he was the editor of the Midlothian Mirror newspaper from 1946-1974. He founded a JFK newsletter in the early 80's called 'The Continuing Inquiry'. His four volume book set, 'Forgive My Grief' was self-published. In his article 'Disappearing Witnesses' he described how over one hundred people, witnesses and others associated with the Kennedy assassination, died mysteriously.

His contributions to the 'continuing inquiry' will not be forgotten. In memory of Penn Jones, JFK Watch is making his 'Disappearing Witnesses' article available again.

Disappearing Witnesses

by Penn Jones, Jr.

Shortly after dark on Sunday night, November 24, 1963, after Ruby had killed Lee Harvey Oswald, a meeting took place in Jack Ruby's apartment in Oak Cliff, a suburb of Dallas, Texas. Five persons were present. George Senator and Attorney Tom Howard were present and having a drink in the apartment when two newsmen arrived. The newsmen were Bill Hunter of the "Long Beach California Press Telegram," and Jim Koethe of the "Dallas Times Herald." Attorney C.A. Droby of Dallas arranged the meeting for the two newsmen, Jim Martin, a close friend of George Senator's, was also present at the apartment meeting.

This writer asked Martin if he thought it was unusual for Senator to forget the meeting while testifying in Washington on April 22, 1964, since Bill Hunter, who was a newsman present at the meeting, was shot to death that very night. Martin grilled and said: "Oh, you're looking for a conspiracy."

I nodded yes and he grinned and said, "You will never find it."

I asked soberly, "Never find it, or not there?"

He added soberly, "Not there."

Bill Hunter, a native of Dallas and an award-winning newsman in Long Beach, was on duty and reading a book in the police station called the "Public Safety Building." Two policemen going off duty came into the press room, and one policeman shot Hunter through the heart at a range officially ruled to be "no more than three feet." The policeman said he dropped his gun, and it fired as he picked it up, but the angle of the bullet caused him to change his story. He finally said he was playing a game of quick draw with his fellow officer. The other officer testified he had his back turned when the shooting took place.

Hunter, who covered the assassination for his paper, the "Long Beach Press Telegram" had written:

"Within minutes of Ruby's execution of Oswald, before the eyes of millions watching television, at least two Dallas attorneys appeared to talk with him."

Hunter was quoting Tom Howard who died of a heart attack in Dallas a few months after Hunter's own death. Lawyer Tom Howard was observed acting strangely to his friends two days before his death. Howard was taken to the hospital by a "friend" according to

the newspapers. No autopsy was performed.

"Dallas Times Herald" reporter Jim Koethe was killed by a karate chop to the throat just as he emerged from a shower in his apartment on Sept. 21, 1964. His murderer was not indicted. What went on in that significant meeting in Ruby's and Senator's apartment?

Few are left to tell. There is no one in authority to ask the question, since the Warren Commission has made its final report, and the House Select Committee has closed its investigation.

Dorothy Kilgallen was another reporter who died strangely and suddenly after her involvement in the Kennedy assassination. Miss Kilgallen is the only journalist who was granted a private interview with Jack Ruby after he killed Lee Harvey Oswald. Judge Joe B. Brown granted the interview during the course of the Ruby trial in Dallas--to the intense anger of the hundreds of other newspapers present.

We will not divulge exactly what Miss Kilgallen did to obtain the interview with Ruby. But Judge Brown bragged about the price paid. Only that was not the real price Miss Kilgallen paid. She

gave her life for the interview. Miss Kilgallen stated that she was "going to break this case wide open."

She died on November 8, 1965. Her autopsy report took eight days. She was 52 years old. Two days later Mrs. Earl T. Smith, a close friend of Miss Kilgallen's, died of undetermined causes.

Tom Howard, who died of a heart attack, was a good friend of District Attorney Henry Wade, although they often opposed each other in court. Howard was close to Ruby and other fringes of the Dallas underworld.

Like Ruby, Howard's life revolved around the police station, and it was not surprising when he and Ruby (toting his gun) showed up at the station on the evening of the assassination of President Kennedy. Nor was it unusual when Howard arrived at the jail shortly after Ruby shot Oswald, asking to see his old friend. Howard was shown into a meeting room to see a bewildered Ruby who had not asked for a lawyer. For the next two days--until Ruby's brother, Earl, soured on him, and had Howard relieved--he was Jack Ruby's chief attorney and public spokesman. Howard took to the publicity with alacrity, called a press conference, wheeled and dealed. He told newsmen the case was a

"once-in-a-lifetime chance," and that "speaking as a private citizen," he thought Ruby deserved a Congressional medal. He told the "Houston Post" that Ruby had been in the police station Friday night (Nov. 22, 1963) with a gun. Howard dickered with a national magazine for an Oswald murder story. He got hold of a picture showing the President's brains flying out of the car, and tried to sell it to "LIFE" magazine. Ruby's sister, Eva Grant, even accused Howard of leaking information to the DA. It was never quite clear whether Howard was working for Ruby or against him.

On March 27, 1965, Howard was taken to a hospital by an unidentified person and died there. He was 48. The doctor, without benefit of an autopsy, said he had suffered a heart attack. Some reporters and friends of Howard's were not so certain. Some said he was "bumped off."

Earlene Roberts was the plump widow who managed the rooming house where Lee Harvey Oswald was living under the name O.H. Lee. She testified before the Warren Commission that she saw Oswald come home around one o'clock, go to his room for three to four minutes and walk out zipping his light weight jacket. A few minutes later, a mile away, officer J.D. Tippit was shot dead.

Mrs. Roberts testified that while Oswald was in his room, two uniformed cops pulled up in front of the rooming house and honked twice--"Just tit tit," she said.

The police department issued a report saying all patrol cars in the area, except Tippit's were accounted for. The Warren Commission let it go at that.

After testifying in Dallas in April 1964, Mrs. Roberts was subjected to intensive police harassment. They visited her at all hours of the day and night. Earlene complained of being "worried to death" by the police. She died on January 9, 1966 in Parkland Hospital (the hospital where President Kennedy was taken). Police said she suffered a heart attack in her home. No autopsy was performed.

Warren Reynolds was minding his used car lot on East Jefferson Street in Oak Cliff in Dallas, when he heard shots two blocks away. He thought it was a marital quarrel. Then he saw a man having a great difficulty tucking "a pistol or an automatic" in his belt, and running at the same time. Reynolds gave chase for a short piece being careful to keep his distance, then lost the fleeing

man. He didn't know it then, but he had apparently witnessed the flight of the killer (or one of the killers) of patrolman J.D.

Tippit. Feeling helpful, he gave his name to a passing policeman and offered his cooperation. Television cameras zeroed in on him, got his story, and made him well known. Warren Reynolds, the amiable used car man, was making history. Reynolds was not questioned until *two months after the event*. The FBI finally talked to him in January 1964. The FBI interview report said, ". . . he was hesitant to definitely identify Oswald as the individual." Then it added, "He advised he is of the opinion Oswald is the person."

Two days after Reynolds talked to the FBI, he was shot in the head. He was closing up his car lot for the night at the time. Nothing was stolen. Later after consulting retired General Edwin Walker (the man Oswald allegedly shot at before he assassinated President Kennedy), he told the Warren Commission Counsel that Oswald was definitely the man he saw fleeing the Tippit murder scene.

A young hood was arrested for the murder attempt. Darrell Wayne Garner had called a relative bragging that he shot Reynolds. But Garner had an alibi. Nancy Jane Mooney, alias Betty McDonald, said

Garner was in bed with her at the time he was supposed to have shot Reynolds. Nancy Jane had worked at Jack Ruby's Carousel Club. Garner was freed.

Nancy Jane was picked up a week later for fighting with a girlfriend. She was arrested for disturbing the peace. The girlfriend was not arrested. Within hours after her arrest, Nancy Jane was dead. Police reports said she hanged herself with her treader pants.

Reynolds and his family were harassed and threatened. But upon giving the Warren Commission a firm identification of Oswald as being the Tippit murder fugitive, he said, "I don't think they are going to bother me any more."

Hank Killam was a house painter who lived at Mrs. A.C. Johnson's rooming house at the same time Lee Harvey Oswald lived there. His wife, Wanda, once pushed cigarettes and drinks at Jack Ruby's club. Hank was a big man, over six feet and weighing over 200 lbs. After the assassination federal agents visited him repeatedly, causing him to lose one job after another.

Killam was absorbed by the assassination, even obsessed. Hours after the event, he came home, "white as a sheet." Wanda said he stayed up all night watching the television accounts of the assassination. Later he bought all the papers and clipped the stories about Kennedy's death.

Before Christmas, Killam left for Florida. Wanda confessed where he was. Federal agents hounded him in Tampa, Florida where he was working selling cars at his brother-in-law's car lot. He lost his job.

Killam wrote Wanda that he would be sending for her soon. He received a phone call on St. Patrick's day. He left the house immediately. He was found later on a sidewalk in front of a broken window. His jugular vein was cut. He bled to death en route to the hospital.

There is no mention of Killam by the Warren Commission. A number of FBI documents on Killam relating to the assassination were withheld, along with documents prepared by the CIA. What is clear is that *somebody* considered Hank Killam a very important guy.

William Whaley was known as the "Oswald Cabbie." He was one of the few who had the opportunity to talk alone with the accused killer of President Kennedy. He testified that Oswald hailed him at the Dallas Greyhound bus station. Whaley said he drove Oswald to the intersection of Beckley and Neches--half a block from the rooming house--and collected a dollar. Later he identified Oswald as his fare in a questionable police line-up.

Whaley was killed in a head-on collision on a bridge over the Trinity River, December 18, 1965; his passenger was critically injured. The 83-year-old driver of the other car was also killed.

Whaley had been with the City Transportation Company since 1936 and had a perfect driving record. He was the first Dallas cabbie to be killed on duty since 1937. When I went to interview the manager of the cab company about Whaley's death, he literally pushed me out of the office. "If you're smart, you won't be coming around here asking questions."

Domingo Benavides, an auto mechanic, was witness to the murder of Officer Tippit. Benavides testified he got a "really good view of the slayer." Benavides said the killer resembled newspaper pictures of Oswald, but he described him differently, "I remember

the back of his head seemed like his hairline went square instead of tapered off . . ."

Benavides reported he was repeatedly threatened by the police who advised him not to talk about what he saw.

In mid-February 1964, his brother Eddy, who resembled him, was fatally shot in the back of the head at a beer joint on Second Avenue in Dallas. The case was marked "unsolved."

Benavides' father-in-law J.W. Jackson was not impressed by the investigation. He began his own inquiry. Two weeks later, J.W. Jackson was shot at in his home. As the gunman escaped, a police car came around the block. It made no attempt to follow the speeding car with the gunman.

The police advised that Jackson should "lay off this business."

"Don't go around asking questions; that's our job." Jackson and Benavides are both convinced that Eddy's murder was a case of mistaken identity and that Domingo Benavides, the Tippit witness, was the intended victim.

Lee Bowers' testimony is perhaps as explosive as any recorded by the Warren Commission. He was one of the 65 witnesses who saw the President's assassination, and who thought shots were fired from

the area of the Grassy Knoll. (The Knoll is west of the Texas School Book Depository Building.) But more than that, he was in a unique position to observe some pretty strange behavior in the Knoll area before and during the assassination.

Bowers, then a towerman for the Union Terminal Co., was stationed in his 14 foot tower directly behind the Grassy Knoll. He faced the scene of the assassination. He could see the railroad overpass to his right. Directly in front of him was a parking lot and a wooden stockade fence, and a row of trees running along the top of the Grassy Knoll. The Knoll sloped down to the spot on Elm Street where the President was killed. Police had "cut off" traffic into the parking lot. Bowers said, "so that anyone moving around could actually be observed."

Bowers made two significant observations which he revealed to the Warren Commission. First, he saw three unfamiliar cars slowly cruising around the parking area in the 35 minutes before the assassination; the first two left after a few minutes. The driver of the second car appeared to be talking into a "mike or telephone;" "he was holding something up to his mouth with one hand and he was driving with the other." A third with out-of-state

license plates and mud up to the windows, probed all around the parking area. Bowers last remembered seeing it about eight minutes before the shooting, pausing "just above the assassination site." Bowers also observed two unfamiliar men standing on the top of the Knoll at the edge of the parking lot, within 10 or 15 feet of each other. "One man, middle aged or slightly older, fairly heavy set, in a white shirt, fairly dark trousers. Another man, younger, about mid-twenties, in either a plaid shirt or plaid coat or jacket." Both were facing toward Elm and Houston in anticipation of the motorcade. The two were the only strangers he remembered seeing. His description shows a remarkable similarity to Julia Ann Mercer's description of two unidentified men climbing the Knoll. When the shots rang out, Bowers' attention was drawn to the area where he had seen the two men; he could still make out the one in the white shirt: "The darker dressed man was too hard to distinguish from the trees."

Bowers observed "some commotion at that spot . . . something out of the ordinary, a sort of milling around . . . which attracted my eye for some reason which I could not identify." At that moment, a motorcycle policeman left the Presidential motorcade and roared up the Grassy Knoll, straight to where the two mysterious gentlemen were standing. Later, Bowers testified that the "commotion" that

caught his eye may have been a "flash of light or smoke."

On the morning of August 9, 1966, Lee Bowers, vice president of a construction firm, was driving south of Dallas on business. He was two miles south of Midlothian, Texas when his brand new company car veered from the road and hit a bridge abutment. A farmer who saw it, said the car was going about 50 miles an hour, a slow speed for that road.

Bowers died in a Dallas hospital. He was 41. There was no autopsy and he was cremated. A doctor from Midlothian who rode to Dallas in the ambulance with Bowers noticed something peculiar about the victim. "He was in some strange sort of shock." The doctor said, "A different kind of shock than the accident victim experiences. I can't explain it. I've never seen anything like it."

When I questioned his widow, she insisted there was nothing suspicious, but then became flustered and said, "They told him not to talk."

Harold Russell was with Warren Reynolds when the Tippit shooting took place. Both men saw the Tippit killer escape. Russell was

interviewed in January 1964, and signed a statement that the fleeing man was Oswald.

A few months after the assassination, Russell went back to his home near David, Oklahoma. In July of 1965, Russell went to a party with a female friend. He seemingly went out of his mind at the party and started telling everyone he was going to be killed. He begged friends to hide him. Someone called the police. When the policemen arrived, one of them hit Russell on the head with his pistol. Russell was then taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead a few hours later: cause of death was listed as "heart failure."

Among others who died strangely were James Worrell, who died in a motorcycle accident on November 9, 1966. He saw a strange man run from the back door of the Texas School Book Depository shortly after the assassination.

Gary Underhill was shot. This death was ruled suicide on May 8, 1964. Underhill was a former CIA agent and claimed he knew who was responsible for killing President Kennedy.

Delilah Walle was a worker at Ruby's club. She was married only

24 days when her new husband shot her. She had been working on a book of what she supposedly knew about the assassination.

William "Bill" Waters died May 20, 1967. Police said he died of a drug overdose (demorol). No autopsy was performed. His mother said Oswald and Killam came to her home before the assassination and her son tried to talk Oswald and Killam out of being involved. Waters called FBI agents after the assassination. The FBI told him he knew too much and to keep his mouth shut. He was arrested and kept in Memphis in a county jail for eight months on a misdemeanor charge.

Albert Guy Bogard, an automobile salesman who worked for Downtown Lincoln-Mercury, showed a new Mercury to a man using the name "Lee Oswald." Shortly after Bogard gave his testimony to a Commission attorney in Dallas, he was badly beaten and had to be hospitalized. Upon his release, he was fearful for his safety. Bogard was from Hallsville, La. He was found dead in his car at the Hallsville Cemetery on St. Valentines day in 1966. A rubber hose was attached to the exhaust and the other end extending into the car. The ruling was suicide. He was just 41 years old.

Jack Ruby died of cancer. He was taken into the hospital with pneumonia. Twenty-eight days later, he was dead from cancer. David Ferrie, of New Orleans, before he could be brought to trial for his involvement in the Kennedy assassination, died of a brain hemorrhage. Just what caused his brain hemorrhage has not been established. Ferrie was to testify in the famous Jim Garrison trial, but death prevented him.

Dr. Mary Stults Sherman, age 51, was found stabbed and burned in her apartment in New Orleans. Dr. Sherman had been working on a cancer experiment with Ferrie.

Another Ferrie associate, Eladio Cerefine de Valle, 43, died on the same day as Ferrie. His skull was split open; he was then shot. DeValle had used Ferrie as a pilot. DeValle had been identifying some men in a photo taken in New Orleans for Jim Garrison. One of the men in the photo was Lee Harvey Oswald. Paul Dyer, of the New Orleans Police force, died of cancer. He was the first police officer to interview Ferrie. Dyer got sick on the job and died a month later of cancer. He had just interviewed David Ferrie.

News reporters were not exempt either. Two lady reporters died

strangely. Lisa Howard supposedly committed suicide. She knew a great deal about the "understanding" which was in the making after the Bay of Pigs, between President Kennedy and the Cubans.

Marguerite Higgins bluntly accused the American authorities of the November 2nd, 1963 killing of Premier Diem and his brother Nhu. A few months after her accusation, she died in a landmine explosion in Vietnam.

On Saturday, November 23, 1963, Jack Zangetty, the manager of a \$150,000 modular motel complex near Lake Lugert, Oklahoma, remarked to some friends that "Three other men--not Oswald--killed the President." He also stated that "A man named Ruby will kill Oswald tomorrow and in a few days a member of the Frank Sinatra family will be kidnapped just to take some of the attention away from the assassination."

Two weeks later, Jack Zangetty was found floating in Lake Lugert with bullet holes in his chest. It appeared to witnesses he had been in the water one to two weeks.

Lou Staples, a radio announcer who was doing a good many of his radio shows on the Kennedy assassination, lost his life sometime on

Friday night, May 13, 1977. This was near Yukon, Oklahoma. He had been having radio shows on the assassination since 1973 and the response to his programs was overwhelming.

Lou's death was termed suicide, but the bullet ending his life entered behind his right temple and Lou was left-handed. He joined Gary Underhill, William Pitzer and Joe Cooper whose "suicides" were all done with the "wrong hand" shots to the head.

Lou had been stating that he wanted to purchase some property to build a home. He was lured out to a wheat field and his life ended there. I have been to the spot where Lou died.

Karyn Kupcinet, daughter of Irv Kupcinet, was trying to make a long distance call from Los Angeles. According to reports, the operator heard Miss Kupcinet scream into the phone that President Kennedy was going to be killed. Two days after the assassination, she was found murdered in her apartment. The case is unsolved. She was 23.

Rose Cherami, 40, was an employee of Jack Ruby's club. She was riding with two men on a return trip from Florida carrying a load of narcotics. She was thrown from the car when an argument began

between her and one of the men. She was hospitalized for injuries and drug withdrawal. She told authorities that President Kennedy was going to be killed in Dallas. After her release from the hospital, she was a victim of a hit-and-run accident on Sept. 4, 1965 near Big Sandy, Texas.

Robert L. Perrin was a gun runner for Jack Ruby. His wife, Nancy testified before the Warren Commission that Robert took a dose of arsenic in August 1962.

Guy Bannister was a private detective who was closely involved in the Jim Garrison trial. Guy and his partner Hugh Ward, died within a 10-day period as the Warren Commission was closing its hearings. Guy supposedly died of a heart attack, but witnesses said he had a bullet hole in his body.

George de Mohrenschildt was another man who was to give testimony but never made it. De Mohrenschildt, in his final days, became suspicious of everyone around him, even his wife, and was nearing a nervous breakdown some thought. He died of gunshot wounds. The verdict was suicide. But de Mohrenschildt was a member of the White Russian society and very wealthy. He visited

Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald when they lived on Neely Street. Marina visited the de Mohrenschildts when she and Lee Harvey Oswald were having some of their disagreements.

Cliff Carter, LBJ's aide who rode in the vice president's follow up car in the motorcade in Dealey Plaza where President Kennedy was gunned down, was LBJ's top aide during his first administration. Carter died of mysterious circumstances. Carter died of pneumonia when no penicillin could be located in Washington, D.C. in September 1971. This was supposedly the cause of death.

Buddy Walthers, Deputy Sheriff, was at the kill site of President Kennedy. He picked up a bullet in a hunk of brain matter blown from the President's head. Walthers never produced the bullet for evidence. Walthers was also at the Texas Theater when Oswald was arrested. In a January 10th, 1969 shooting, Walthers was shot through the heart. In a shootout Walthers and his companion Deputy Alvin Maddox, were fired upon by Cherry, an escaped prisoner they were trying to capture. Walthers' widow received \$10,000 for her husband dying in the line of duty.

Clay Shaw, age 60, died five years after he was charged by Jim Garrison for his involvement in the Kennedy assassination. Some reports have it that he had been ill for months after surgery for

removing a blood clot. Other newspaper reports of his death stated he had cancer. It was revealed that Shaw was a paid contact for the CIA. A neighbor reported that an ambulance was seen pulling up to the Shaw home. Then a body was carried in and an empty stretcher brought out. A few hours later, Shaw was reportedly found dead in his home. Then he was given a quick embalming before a coroner could be notified. It was then impossible to determine the cause of death.

On May 15, 1976, Roger Dean Craig died of a massive gunshot wound to the chest. Supposedly, it was his second try at suicide and a success. Craig was a witness to the slaughter of President Kennedy. Only Craig's story was different from the one the police told.

Craig testified in the Jim Garrison trial. Before this, Craig had lost his job with the Dallas Police Dept. In 1961, he had been "Man of the Year." Because he would not change his story of the assassination, he was harassed and threatened, stabbed, shot at, and his wife left him.

Craig wrote two manuscripts of what he witnessed. "When They

Kill A President" and "The Patient Is Dying."

Craig's father was out mowing the lawn when Craig supposedly shot himself. Considering the hardships, Craig very well could have committed suicide. But no one will ever know.

John M. Crawford, 46, died in a mysterious plane crash near Huntsville, Texas on April 15, 1969. It appeared from witnesses that Crawford had left in a rush. Crawford was a homosexual and a close friend of Jack Ruby's. Ruby supposedly carried Crawford's phone number in his pocket at all times. Crawford was also a friend of Buell Wesley Frazier's, the neighbor who took Lee Harvey Oswald to work on that fatal morning of Nov. 22, 1963.

Hale Boggs was the only member of the Warren Commission who disagreed with the conclusions. Hale Boggs did not follow Earl Warren and his disciples. He totally disagreed. Hale Boggs was in a plane crash lost over frozen Alaska.

Nicholas J. Chetta, M.D., age 50, Orleans Parish coroner since 1950, died at Mercy Hospital on May 25, 1968. Newspaper reports were sketchy. It was said he suffered a heart attack. Dr. Chetta was the coroner who served at the death of David Ferrie. Dr.

Chetta was the key witness regarding Perry Russo against Clay Shaw. Shaw's attorney went into federal court only after Dr. Chetta was dead.

Dr. Martin Luther King was murdered, then his assassin not captured until over a year later. Dr. King was the only hope this country had for bringing about equality.

The death of Robert Kennedy, only shortly after Dr. King's death on June 5th, 1968, was a brazen act which gave notice to this entire nation. It became imperative, when Senator Kennedy became a threat as presidential candidate, that he had to be killed.

There is evidence that two persons, a man and a woman, were with the accused killer, but authorities have found no trace of them. Coroner, Dr. Thomas Noguchi told the Grand Jury the powder burns indicated the murder gun was fired not more than two to three inches from Kennedy's right ear. Witnesses testified that Sirhan was never closer than four or five feet to the Senator.

I have not, by any means, listed "all" of the strange deaths. I have a complete list in my books. I have listed the most

significant ones that occurred after the assassination. The

strange deaths after the assassination of President John F.

Kennedy, in my estimate, number over 100, but I am certain I know

of only a fraction.

Many strange deaths occurred after the assassinations of Dr.

Martin Luther King and Senator Robert F. Kennedy. No one knows the

exact number.

ANTI-CASTRO CUBAN EXILE GROUPS

1960's

- *30th of November Movement --- (Leftist)
- *AAA --- Aurelio Sanchez Arrango/Manuel Covo
- *Agrupacion Montecristi --- Dr. Justo Carillo
- *Alpha 66 --- Andres Nozario Sargen/Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo
- *Anti-Communist Cuban Liberation Movement --- Eladio Del Valle
- *Authentico Party --- Carlos Prio/Tony Varona
- *Brigade 2506 --- Bay of Pigs Paramilitary Force
- *Comandos L (Liberation) --- Tony Cuesta's MIRR ally
- *CORU --- Orlando Bosch's Commando of United Revolutionary Organizations (1976)
- *Crusade to Free Cuba (Free Cuba Committee) --- Sergio Arcacha Smith's Fund-Raiser
- *Cuban Nationalist Movement --- Novo Brothers
- *Cuban Navy in exile --- Commander Renato Diaz
- *Cuban Liberation Committee --- Tony Varona/Pedro Valeriano Gonzalez (Abilene)
- *Cuban Revolutionary Council --- " " " "
- *Cuban Revolutionary Front --- E. Howard Hunt's Umbrella Organization of Many Groups
- *Cubanos Unidos --- Ex-Alpha 66 Members
- *DRE --- Revolutionary Student Directorate
- *Ejercito Cubano Anticomunista (ECA) --- Evilio Duque
- *FRAC --- Anti-Communist Revolutionary Front
- *FRD --- Tony Varona's Democratic Revolutionary Front (Frente Revolucionario Democratico)
- *Free Cuba Committee --- Eladio Del Valle
- *Friends of Democratic Cuba --- Sergio Arcacha Smith/Guy Banister Fund-Raising Org.
- *Grupo Generacional --- division of FRD opposed to Varona/Carillo
- *International Anti-Communist Brigade --- Manolo Ray's Cuban Freedom Fighters
- *JGCE --- Paulino Sierra/Carlos Prio's Junta of the Government of Cuba in Exile
- *JURE --- Amador Odio/Rogelio Cisneros' Revolutionary Junta
- *La Rosa Blanca (The White Rose) --- Rafael Diaz-Balart (earliest exile group -- 1959)

- *Lambda 66
 - *MDC --- Christian Democratic Movement of Jose Rasco
 - *MIR --- Antonio Veciana's Fund-Raiser for Second National Front of Escambray
 - *MIRR --- Orlando Bosch's Insurreccional Movement for the Recovery of the Revolution
 - *MRP --- Manolo Ray's Revolutionary Movement del Pueblo
 - *MRR --- Manuel Artime Buesa's Movimiento de Recuperacion Revolucionario
 - *Polita Grau --- Herminio Diaz Garcia
 - *RECE --- Jorge Mas Canosa's Representacion Cubana en Exilio
 - *Rescate Revolucionario Democratico --- (Rescue) Tony Varona
 - *SNFE --- Second National Front of Escambray
 - *Sugar Growers Association --- Ricardo R. Sardina
 - *Unidad Revolucionario (Revolutionary Unity--Oswald target) --- Fernando Cabada
-

1970's

- *Abdala --- Gustavo Marin-Duarte
 - *Accion Cubana --- Gilberto Casanova/Juan Garcia(formerly Orlando Bosch's El Poder Cubano)
 - *Coordinacion de Organizaciones Revolucionarias Unidas --- Umbrella group for 70's groups
 - *Cuban Secret Government --- Orlando Bosch's terrorist group
 - *Frente de Liberacion Nacional Cubano --- Frank Castro
 - *Jovenes de la Estrella (Youth of the Star) --- Ramon Rodriguez
 - *Liga Anticomunista Cubana (LAC) --- Hector Duran
 - *Movimiento Insurreccional Martiano --- Hector Alfonso Ruiz/Ramon Sanchez/Luis Crespo
 - *Omega 7 --- Eduardo Arocena
-

1980's TO PRESENT

- *Alianza Cubana --- Jose Perez Linares
- *American Students Pro-Alpha 66 (ASPA 66) --- Ed Compton/John O'Donnell
- *Assault Brigade 2506 --- Rafael Cabezas
- *Brothers to the Rescue --- Jose Basulto
- *Comandoes Martiano MRD --- Alberto Fibras

- *Comision Gestora (Unidad Cubana)(Pro Unity Commission) --- Modesto L. Castaner
- *Cuba Independiente y Democratica (CID) --- Huber Matos Araluces
- *CANF --- Jorge Mas Canosa/Felix Rodriguez' Cuban American National Foundation
- *Cuban Democratic Coalition --- Andres Rivero Aguero
- *Cuban Nationalist Association --- Felipe Rivero
- *Cuban Defense League --- Armando L. Calderin
- *Cuban National Commission --- Ramon Saul Sanchez
- *Cuban Internal Front --- Andres Chaves
- *Cuban Democratic Party --- Ignacio Castro Matos
- *Cuban Democratic Coalition
- *Cuban Assistance Liberation Party --- Jose Llopis
- *Cuban Independent Party --- Tony Catalayud
- *Cuban Internal Front
- *Cuban Revolutionary Party (formerly Autentico Party) --- Tony De Varona
- *Cubanos Desterrados (Exiled Cubans) --- Sergio de Paz
- *Cubanos Unidos --- Wilfredo Navarro
- *Cumbre Patriotica Cubana (Cuban Patriotic Summit) --- Raul Pozo/M. L. Castaner (Umbrella)
- *Democracia Movement --- Ramon Saul Sanchez
- *Ex-Club ---Jorge Villalba
- *Fundacion Valladares --- Armando Valladares
- *Junta Patriotica Cubana (Cuban Patriotic Coalition) --- Roberto Rodriguez Aragon/De Varona
- *Movimiento de Recuperacion Democratica (see Comandos Martiano)
- *Partido Unidad Nacional (PUND)(National Unity Democratic Party) --- Sergio Gonzalez
- *Presidio Politico historico Cubano (PPHC) --- Marcos Gomez Cancio
- *Veterans of Special Missions (VSMG) --- Jose Garcia Rosquete

Chapters (Miami-based):

1. CUBAN POWER #1
2. CUBAN POWER #2
3. SECRET ANTI-COMMUNIST ARMY (ESA)

4. GUERRILLA TACTICAL CORP (GCT)
5. CONGRESS FOR THE LIBERATION OF CUBA (CLC)
6. SEVENTH OF DECEMBER
7. LA MANO BLANCA (THE WHITE HAND)
8. TACTICAL COMBAT GROUP
9. ALL FOR CUBA
10. CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A FREE CUBA

MODERATE GROUP

- *ASOCIACION POLITICA HISPANO-AMERICANA --- Gloria Franco
- *ASOCIACION POR LA PAZ CONTINENTAL (AZOPASCO) --- Maria Paz Nieto
- *BRIDGE FOR YOUNG CUBAN AMERICANS --- Nicolas Gutierrez
- *BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE --- Jose Basulto
- *CAMBIO CUBANO --- Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo
- *CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS --- Jesus Permuy
- *COALICION CUBANO AMERICANA --- Marisol Mirabet
- *COALICION DEMOCRATICA CUBANA --- Luis Zuniga
- *COALITION OF AMERICAN FREIGHT FORWARDING AGENCIES --- Hermez Gonzalez
- *COORDINADORA SOCIAL DEMOCRATA --- Ramon Cernuda
- *COMITE DE ACCION POR LA LIBERTAD DE CUBA --- CANF membership
- *CUBAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY --- Angel del Cerro
- *CUBAN AMERICAN DEFENSE LEAGUE --- Eddy Levy
- *CUBAN AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS --- Roberto Solis Avila
- *CUBAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS --- Carlos M. de Cespedes

- *CUBAN COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS --- Ricardo Bofill Pages
- *CUBAN FREEDOM YOUTH MOVEMENT --- Eliazar Gonzalez
- *CUBAN MASONS --- Joaquin Aranburu
- *CUBAN MUNICIPALITIES IN EXILE --- Miguel A. Tuleda
- *CUBAN MUSEUM OF ARTS AND CULTURE --- Board of Directors
- *CUBAN MUSEUM RESCUE COMMITTEE --- Margarita Ruiz
- *CUBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT F.I.U. --- Lisandro Perez
- *CUBAN REUNIFICATION OPERATION --- Bernardo Benes
- *CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC DIRECTORY --- Janisette Rivero,
Janet Oliva
- *CUBAN ROOTS FOUNDATION --- Lucia Rojas
- *DEMOCRATS FOR DEMOCRACY IN CUBA --- Gustavo Marin
- *FREE ART ASSOCIATION --- Omar Lopez Montenegro
- *MOVIMIENTO IDEOLOGICO DE DISIDENTES CUBANOS --- Nelson G. Batista
- *PLATAFORMA DEMOCRATICA CUBANA --- Carlos Alberto Montaner
- *UNION LIBERAL CUBANA --- Felicito Rodriguez
- *UNITED STATES CUBAN BUSINESS CONSORTIUM --- Byron Barksdale

MODERATE NON-LOCAL

- *UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS --- Ken Blackwell
- *AMERICA'S WATCH --- Juan E. Mendez
- *CUBAN COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY --- Lillian Pubillones Nolan
- *FREEDOM HOUSE --- Frank Calzon
- *FUNDACION LIBERAL JOSE MARTI --- Montaner
- *HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER --- Antonio Tang
- *INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION --- Eduardo

Fernandez

URGENT: 1:45 AM EST 11-17-63 HLF 1 PAGE

TO: ALL SACS

FROM: DIRECTOR

TREAT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT

KENNEDY IN DALLAS TEXAS NOVEMBER 22

DASH TWENTY THREE NINETEEN SIXTY

THREE. MISC INFORMATION CONCERNING.

INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED

BY THE BUREAS [sic] BUREAU HAS

DETERMINED THAT A MILITANT

REVOLUTIONARY GROUP MAY ATTEMPT TO

ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY ON

HIS PROPOSED TRIP TO DALLAS TEXAS

NOVEMBER TWENTY TWO DASH TWENTY

THREE NINETEEN SIXTY THREE. ALL
RECEIVING OFFICES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY
CONTACT ALL CIS, PCIS LOGICAL RACE
AND HATE GROUP INFORMANTS AND
DETERMINE IF ANY BASIS FOR THREAT.
BUREAU SHOULD BE KEPT ADVISED OF ALL
DEVELOPMENTS BY TELETYPE. OTHER
OFFICES HAVE BEEN ADVISED. END AND
ACK PLS.

NOTES AND SOURCES

Chapter One

A Day in the Death

1--- standing at Elm and Houston during motorcade. Heard three shots: (CD206).

The Motorcade

2--- sewer sniper theory: (Penn Jones' FORGIVE MY GRIEF series, studies by Ron Brazil)

Extra Shots

3--- photographed examining spot in grass on south side of Elm St. by sewer cover with

Clyde Haygood and FBI agent Robert Barrett: (identified by Curry ASSASSINATION FILE)(photos by Murray and Allen) Officer J.W. Foster saw turf fly by manhole cover as he heard shots, investigated after with Walthers, Barrett, and R. Craig. Evidence for a shot off the concrete cover still exists: (Witness: John Martin) (see Trask's PICTURES OF THE PAIN, p.573) Angle of ricochet does not match TSBD, but Records Bldg., where a 30.06 rifle shell casing was later found. Does it match the angle of the shot on Tague's curb?:("The Wounding of James Tague: Evidence of a Second Gunman in the JFK Assassination" by Michael T. Griffith, 1997) ("James Tague: Unintended Victim in Dealey Plaza" by Wm. M. Goggins, Marquette Univ.) Another reported miss was off the pavement below the right rear of limousine:(5 witnesses) Eugene Aldridge discovers 4.5-inch bullet mark on north side of Elm (witness: Morning News reporter Carl Freund) Efforts made by FBI(?) to cover over. Stemmons sign also removed on 11-23-63. photos of Main St. curb, etc.: (SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS, P.293)

4---Was bullet found and given to Barrett?: (.45 calibre slug, HIGH TREASON, p.214)(Jim Murray ph.) More witnesses to bullet found include DPD Lt. J.C. Day, NEW REPUBLIC newsman Richard Dudman, Off. Foster: (Jack White). manhole cover study: (Mark Oakes' Eyewitness Video) telephone interview with Edna Hartman revealing details of FBI deception: (2-11-98). telephone interview with Mark Oakes: (3-15-98). (Article "Extra Bullets and Missed Shots in Dealey Plaza" by

Michael T. Griffith, 1996) --- identity of "FBI man": (Chief Curry's ASSASSINATION FILE) shown to be Robert Barrett: (supported by G.Shanklin and Barrett himself)

5--- Maddox and Walthers' wife have both vouched for Buddy's statement that a bullet was found that afternoon: (Mark Oakes interviews, personal interviews with Walthers' daughter Cheryl).

6--- Walthers testified to the Warren Commission that no spent bullet was found (WCR XIX p.534)

The Third Victim in Dealey Plaza

7--- discovered blood on the face of witness James Tague, standing at Main and Underpass during the shooting, and found damaged curb soon after. Surmised in report that it must have been last shot fired and went high above the limousine. (CROSSFIRE, p.61) Does it match the angle of the shot on Tague's curb?: ("The Wounding of James Tague: Evidence of a Second Gunman in the JFK Assassination" by Michael T. Griffith, 1997) ("James Tague: Unintended Victim in Dealey Plaza" by Wm. M. Goggins, Marquette Univ.) This evidence necessitated the invention of the Miracle Bullet Theory, as they only had three spent shells to work with. (One in JFK's back through into Connally, one in JFK's head, and one miss) Mark on curb yielded no copper, meaning not a shell from Oswald's gun (WCR, p. 116, also Hurt's REASONABLE DOUBT) (interview in JFK: BREAKING THE SILENCE by Bill Sloan)

8--- among first officers to seal the TSBD at 12:45, meaning the building was not sealed for fifteen minutes following the assassination: (CROSSFIRE, p.313)

Sinister Suspect in the Dal-Tex

9--- Eugene Hale Brading, alias Jim Braden: (LEGACY OF DOUBT by Peter Noyes)

The Suspect Finds Sanctuary

10--- Thomas Edward Beckham, Fred Crisman, Wm. Seymour: (Kennedy Assassination Collection, NARA gov't documents released in JFK Act of 1992) (Garrison investigation)

Friday Afternoon Movie

11--- Was also at the Texas Theater when Oswald was arrested: (WARREN REPORT, p165)

“We’ve Been Expecting You”

12--- Obtained search warrant for Paine home where blanket that had held Oswald's rifle was found: (CD206)

13--- Walthers, S.L. Oxford, and Harry Weatherford checked records in TSBD and found missing employee's Irving address (the Paine house). Got phone number from Paine that rang at 1026 N. Beckley, Oswald's rooming house (under O.H. Lee): (THE DAY KENNEDY DIED, p.116)

Photos Of A Patsy

14--- Roscoe White and George Demohrenschildt both owned copies of backyard photos including other poses: (TREACHERY IN DALLAS, P.160)(Police reenactment found in files released to Dallas Police Archives)

Chapter Two

The Other Busy Deputy

15--- photographed with fellow Deputy Roger Craig on Elm St. after 12:40. Craig saw man resembling Oswald run down the knoll and jump in Nash Rambler driven by dark complected man. Walthers deduced later that this Nash Rambler was the one owned by Ruth Paine, Marina's roommate: (JFK READER, p.46) Photos include light green Nash Rambler with luggage rack turning corner onto Elm that, according to Deputy R. Craig, picked up a running Lee Oswald. Walthers suggested that Ruth Paine's green station wagon also had a luggage rack, but was a Chevy. Oswald yelled to Fritz and Craig not to bring her into this:(WC VI, p. 270)(Evidence to contradict this story: bus transfer found in Oswald's pocket after arrest proves the running man was not Oswald)(THE KILLING OF A PRESIDENT, unpublished manuscript by R. Craig)(article “The Rambler Man” by David Perry)(other witnesses to Rambler: research by Michael Parks)(telephone interview with ex-Deputy Jack Faulkner about Craig, Walthers, and Ruby: 5-9-95. Also reveals Oswald as FBI

informant)(Warren Commission testimony of Roger Craig)

16--- Edgar E. Bradley: (THE KILLING OF A PRESIDENT, and THE KENNEDY CONSPIRACY by Paris Flammonde, pp. 198-204)

17--- Craig watches police interrogate Latino who was released when he spoke no English: (ZR RIFLE: THE PLOT TO KILL KENNEDY AND CASTRO, P. 130)

Chapter Three

The Cuban Element

18--- From a tip from his mother-in-law, who lived on Harlandale in Oak Cliff, discovered that Alpha 66, an anti-Castro organization, headquartered at 3126 Harlandale. Oswald had reportedly attended their meetings, also 30th of November Mvmt., DRE, National Front of Escambray (SNFE), and People's Revolutionary Movement(MRP) had stayed here. All had moved out within days of assassination("between 7 days before and the day after he was shot"), but Walthers found name of leader, Manuel Rodriguez Orcarberro, who lived at 1208 Hudspeth and 5310 Columbia. Secret Service knew him to be violently anti-Kennedy, and he was on their Protective Research list. Frank Ellsworth of ATF and gun dealer John Thomas Masen know of his affiliation with DRE and Alpha 66, and was a Bay of Pigs survivor (COUP D'ETAT, pp.116-119) (also see report by Walthers in DESTINY BETRAYED, p.282)(OSWALD TALKED)("JFK and the Cuban Connection" by Dick Russell, HIGH TIMES Magazine, Aug. '96, Vol.252) (Conspiracy Nation Newsletter, June 1996)

19--- Harlandale house: (posts by Robert Harris at alt.conspiracy.jfk)

20--- Odio: ("Sylvia Odio vs. Liebler and the La Fontaines" by Jim DiEugenio, PROBE, Sept.-Oct. 1996 issue, Vol3, No.6)

21--- Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo commented in Miami on 11-21-63 that "something very big would happen soon that would advance Cuban (anti-Castro) cause." Menoyo was one of the original founders of Alpha 66: (MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH, P.540)

22--- David Atlee Phillips, Veciana, Oswald ties: ("Report bolsters Oswald link to mystery U.S. Agent" by Michael Dornan, NEWSDAY)

23--- John Thomas Masen, Donnell Whitter, Lawr. Miller, Manuel Rodriguez O.: (OSWALD TALKED)

24--- Gen. Walker and Col. Castorr fired up Cubans against Kennedy: (KENNEDY CONSPIRACY P. 127)

Anti-Castro 101

25--- Cuban research extraordinaire: (Alan J. Weberman, www.weberman.com)

Double Or Triple Agent?

26--- Connell/Odio: (The Truth is Redacted Website, www.redacted.com/odio0004.txt)

27--- Miami Cubans: ("Testimony to NARA by John McLaughlin" 11-18-94)("The Inspector General's Report: An Introduction" by Peter Dale Scott 12-20-94)("Official Says JFK Conspiracy Had Cuban Exile Links" by Michael Blackmore 12-2-93)(Kennedy Library, National Security Files, Countries Series, Cuba, Subjects, Exiles, 1961, Secret 3-21-61)

Cuban Webmaster

28--- E. Howard Hunt: ("Miami Vice" by David Giammarco)

29--- Arcacha Smith offered \$200,000 by Marcello: (DEEP POLITICS, P.88)

plot hatched by Ferrie, Shaw, Arcacha Smith, and Marcello: (FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE by Robt. Morrow, P.189)Arcacha Smith assisted by Ronnie Caire and Wm. Reily, friend of Ferrie: (THE GARRISON CASE by Milton E. Brener, P.47)

30--- FBI agent Warren de Brueyes volunteered for CRC with Arcacha Smith: (COINCIDENCE OR CONSPIRACY, P.258)

31--- David Lewis introduced to Lee Harvey in Mancuso's Restaurant with Arcacha Smith and Carlos Quiroga: (THE GARRISON CASE, P.67)

Gypsy Rose

32--- Rose Cheramie case details foreknowledge of plot, pointing to Cuban involvement, as their training base was in close proximity to Eunice, LA. Oswald was seen by 'informant,' various witnesses, plus Silvio Odio and sister Sarita, entering this and other Cuban meeting places in Dallas, as late as 11-21-63: (OSWALD TALKED, Lafontaine) Others with testimony regarding Oswald at Harlandale include veteran

press men Lonnie Hudkins and T. George Harris, senior editor of LOOK Magazine:(Russell's MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH) Cheramie story: (article "Ramblin' Rose" by Chris Mills)

33--- made the arrest of Sergio Arcacha Smith on 4-3-67 in Dallas. Connally refused to extradite him to New Orleans for Garrison. Smith had used office of Guy Banister, whose address was stamped on Oswald's pro-Castro leaflets (Fair Play for Cuba) (DESTINY BETRAYED, p.175)

34--- Walthers subpoenaed for Clay Shaw trial by Garrison concerning Dealey bullet found. Never went.

Chapter Four

Ruby, Don't Take Your Gun To Town

35--- among Ruby's acquaintances before shooting. Appeared on a list of Ruby's with notations. "Rosemary Allen, Decker's secretary, Buddy Walthers, deputy sheriff, Travis Hall, county clerk deputy, Clint Lewis, deputy sheriff." (CONTRACT ON AMERICA, p.142)

36--- Ruby gunrunning: ("Gunrunner Ruby and the CIA" by Lisa Pease in PROBE magazine July-August, 1995 issue, Vol.2, No.5)

37--- MK ULTRA: (WERE WE CONTROLLED?) (MARY, FERRIE, AND THE MONKEY VIRUS by Ed Haslam) (John Judge, Coalition On Political Assassinations) ("Nazi Mind Control" by Ron Patton, THE CONSPIRACY READER) ("CIA Mind Control" by Jon Elliston) testimony of Wm Jennings Bryan: (THE DEFENSE NEVER RESTS, by F. Lee Bailey)

Chapter Five

Another Life Cut Short

38--- Killed in shootout at Eastern Hills Motel, Room13 (1-11-69) with partner Alvin Maddox, Jr. : (Murder case file in Ft. Worth courthouse, C69-233-LK)

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